

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

January 2026



President's Message

Happy New Year!

Dear Members of the Alberta Elks Association,

I hope everyone had a wonderful festive season and is feeling refreshed and ready for the months ahead. We still have a lot happening over the next little while, and I'm excited about what's coming.

As we continue to welcome new members into our lodges, I want to remind everyone how important it is to support them beyond the application. Please continue to check in, help them get to meetings if needed, sit with them, and take time to explain what's happening. A little mentorship goes a long way in helping new members feel connected and valued.

Don't forget to submit your application for the Double Up Campaign for a chance to win that trip to Gander for the Elks of Canada National Convention! It would be wonderful to see strong Alberta representation at the Convention.

Speaking of getting together, I hope you are all making plans to attend the Conference in Hanna this June. Your voice matters, and the best way to have it heard is to be there, share your ideas, and help shape the future of our Association.

We also have some exciting plans in the works, including updates on the Walk For Children and a Meet the Elks Day in May, so please stay tuned for more information.

Thank you for everything you do for your lodges and your communities. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead.

Fraternally,

Sister Terry Read
Provincial President
Alberta Elks Association



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Elks Proud

EST. 1912

We're off to a great start with the 57th Annual Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle, supporting charitable programs across Alberta.

This long-standing fundraiser helps power initiatives like **Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elks Kits, and ISTAR Scholarships**, directly benefiting children and families in our communities.

If your members are selling tickets, please share on Facebook and tag @AlbertaElks Association so we can help spread the word.

Every ticket makes a difference — thank you for your support!

Join the Alberta Elks Foundation

Since 1963, the Alberta Elks Foundation has been the charitable arm of our Association — working to strengthen communities and support children with medical needs across the province. Through our 91 Lodges and over 2,400 members, the Foundation funds vital initiatives like Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elk Kits, the Annual Toy Drive, and support for ISTAR – the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research.

Our mission is simple: to make a lasting difference in the lives of Alberta families. Whether through grants, hospital programs, or disaster relief, the Foundation ensures Elks compassion reaches those who need it most.

Want to get involved?

You can support the Foundation by:

- Joining as a Foundation member
- Volunteering with your Lodge to promote Foundation programs
- Booking Charlie the Elk or the Foundation Float for community events
- Donating directly or helping sell tickets for the annual Foundation Raffle

Every act of support — big or small — helps us keep “Elks Caring and Sharing” alive in Alberta.

👉 To learn more or join the Foundation, contact the Foundation Office at albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com or visit the Alberta Elks website.

Meet Charlie the Elk — He's Ready to Hit the Road!

Did you know the Alberta Elks Association has its very own mascot and parade float?

Charlie the Elk is always a crowd favorite — perfect for community events, parades, and lodge celebrations!

Over the summer, Charlie only made five appearances, and we'd love to see that number grow in 2026!

Bringing Charlie to your event is a great way to:

- Boost community awareness for your lodge
- Engage families and kids with fun photo opportunities
- Showcase the Elks' presence at local events
- ✓ The Charlie Float is available for lodges to book!

For details or to reserve Charlie for your next event, contact the Alberta Elks Association office.

Let's get Charlie out and about — spreading smiles, spirit, and Elkdom pride across Alberta!



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ELKS OF CANADA



The Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children

The Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children is a national charity making a meaningful difference for children and families across Canada. The Fund supports far more than speech and hearing needs — it also helps cover therapies, equipment, and treatments that are not otherwise funded.

Ways to Support the Fund

- Make a personal donation by e-transfer, online, monthly giving, phone, or cheque/cash
- Host a lodge or personal fundraising event and donate the proceeds

Applying for Assistance

The Fund's new application form is now fillable online or printable for manual completion. It has been redesigned to be simple, step-by-step, and user-friendly, with all family information kept strictly confidential.

National Fire Fund

In the event of a fire affecting a home with children under 19, immediate assistance is available:

- \$500 per child, up to 3 children
- Maximum \$1,500
- Lodges may provide additional support, and the Fund will reimburse lodges for the maximum allowable amount.

For more information, visit the Elks of Canada website and log into the members portal (password: elksproud).

This charity exists because of you. Your donations and fundraising efforts help us continue supporting children when they need it most.

"Let's make it happen."

— The Charities Committee
Lady Christine Penney
National Charities Committee Member
Alberta Elks Foundation Trustee



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 of canada.ca/jr-elks>



Double
UP

NEW MEMBER
CONTEST!

Bring two friends into the Lodge and share the laughter, connection, and unforgettable moments that make Elks fellowship meaningful.

More friends. More memories. More fun.

Elks of Canada

<https://www.elks of canada.ca/join-us>



[elks of alberta.ca](https://www.elks of alberta.ca)



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★ **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!

Vegreville Elks Lodge #143
will be hosting an
Open Floor Curling Tournament
at the
Vegreville Senior Citizens Sunshine Club
All ages welcome – Elk Membership is not required



When: February 20, 21 – 2026.
Cost: \$375 per team (includes Saturday Lunch & Dinner)
Where: Registration/socializing/lunches on February 20 (Friday) @ 7 pm at the Vegreville Elks Hall - 5506 - 50th Street, Vegreville
Curling starts on February 21 (Saturday) @ 8:30 am at the Vegreville Senior Citizens Sunshine Club - 4630 49 Street, Vegreville
Lunch provided at the Senior Citizens Sunshine Club on February 21 (Saturday)
Dinner on February 21 (Saturday) will be held at the Vegreville Elks Hall
Prizes for the top four teams
Register By: January 23, 2026
Maximum of 20 teams
Minimum 12 teams required
(4 players per team)
Registration form and information available from:
Event Organizer - Al Kornicki
email: al.kornicki1402@hotmail.ca or Ph. 780-632-9296
or
George Childs, email: glchilds@telus.net or Ph. 780-632-6406
Tournament will follow Alberta Floor Curling Association Floor Curling Game Procedures and Rules

Let's Rock the House

Vegreville Elks Floor Curling Bonspiel!

The Vegreville Elks Lodge is ready to sweep into action with their Floor Curling Bonspiel — and they'd love your support to make it a standout event!

Whether you're playing or cheering, it's a fun, social way to connect with fellow members and enjoy some friendly competition. No ice, no experience, no special equipment — just good times for all ages.

How you can help:

- Gather a team and register early
- Spread the word to nearby lodges and friends
- Come out and cheer if you're not playing

Let's show Vegreville some love and help make this a can't-miss event!

Upcoming Events



Alberta Elks Association
2026 AGM
June 10-13
Hanna Elks Lodge # 451

Elks of Canada
2026 AGM
July 14-16
Gander Elks Lodge # 310

Worried about finding a slick fit to wear to Graduation on a tight budget? 🤔

Check out Gowns4Grads!



Coming to Delia!

The free formal wear event where 2026 grads can find suits, shoes, dresses and more for no charge!

Saturday & Sunday @ Delia Secondary School + Food Drive!
October 18th October 19th 205 3rd Ave N. W. Bring a non-perishable
12:00pm - 4pm 10:00am - 3pm Delia, AB food item

This event is hosted by the **Trenville Royal Purple Elks # 248**

Elks Canada is dedicated to making sure that no graduate goes without the finery they dream about. Come shop our selection of donated Dresses, Suits and Shoes. You can walk away with a free Graduation ensemble!

Thank you to those whose support and donations have made this incredible program possible!

For general information about this event or to volunteer or make a donation, call Louise at 403-357-8292.

Follow us on Facebook for event updates and future event announcements.
@trenv248 #Gowns4Grads #ElksProud



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Strathmore Elks

Giving Back in Action — Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 Giving Back Gala

On November 21, 2025, over 230 guests gathered in Strathmore for the Giving Back Gala, an evening dedicated to supporting local mental health services. The event was proudly hosted in partnership with Strathmore Elks Branch 491, Strathmore FCSS, Wheatland FCSS, the Cheadle Lions Club, and Grit Psychology.

Heartfelt thanks go to the Elks and Lions volunteers, generous sponsors, the special speakers who shared impactful presentations and all participants. Special recognition to Brother Sean Duthie of the Elks, who spearheaded both the August golf tournament and the November Gala. Together, these events raised more than \$20,000 for mental health initiatives in Strathmore and Wheatland County.



The Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 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.

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 totaled **\$17, 500!** 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.

Pincher Creek Elks

Years of Service Pin Presentation

Alberta Elks Association President Terry Read was honoured to assist the Pincher Creek Elks Lodge with their recent Years of Service pin presentations, recognizing the dedication and long-standing commitment of its members.

These pins represent decades of service, fellowship, and community involvement, and it was a proud moment to celebrate the members who have helped strengthen the Lodge and the Elks mission over the years.

Back Row (L-R): Don Anderberg (50 years), Rick Clark (20), Les Ostby (20), Dick Burnham (55), Charles Price (45), Peter Wollman (45), Dennis Robin (15)

Front Row: President Terry Read, Elsie Neumann (45), Edie Clark (15), Paul Larson (10)



Congratulations to all recipients, and thank you for your many years of service and dedication to the Elks and your community.

Stavely Elks



Supporting Youth & Community – Stavely Elks in Action

The Stavely Elks continue to demonstrate their commitment to supporting youth and community initiatives through meaningful local contributions.

Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson is pictured presenting a \$1,500 donation to Jenna Flitton on behalf of JT Foster High School's Queens Ball. This support was earned by participating students who worked diligently at the Elks' annual Pheasant Derby in November, assisting with clean-up and dishwashing throughout the event — a well-deserved contribution.

In addition, the Elks proudly supported local athletics with a \$2,500 sponsorship to the Southern Alberta Mustangs Junior Hockey Club. Pictured are Parker Ma (left) and Austin Joudrie (right), receiving the cheque from Elks Treasurer Dennis Gillespie. The sponsorship will help cover ice rental and other team expenses.

These contributions reflect the Elks' ongoing dedication to investing in youth, teamwork, and community spirit.

Stavely Royal Purple Elks



Pictured here are Ethel Schlosser (left) and Marlyn Curry (right) receiving special corsages in recognition of their remarkable 62 years (Ethel) and 60 years (Marlyn) of dedicated service to the Stavely Royal Purple Elks #99.

Presenting the corsages is Sande Heidmiller, during the Lodge's annual Christmas Dinner — a heartfelt moment celebrating decades of commitment and service.

Barrhead Elks



The Barrhead Elks were proud to support the Barrhead Tree of Hope this holiday season.

Through the Lodge's sponsorship of two Gold Stars, totaling \$5,000, we were honoured to give back to a cause that makes a meaningful difference in our community.

Mannville Elks and Royal Purple Elks



Customer Appreciation Supper

An energetic crowd gathered at the Mannville Elks Hall for a well-attended Customer Appreciation Supper that celebrated community spirit and local support on December 21. The event was made possible through a strong partnership between four community groups: the Mannville Chamber of Commerce, Mannville Elks #395, Royal Purple Elks #205, and the Mannville Multi 4H Club.

Guests were treated to a generous meal that included roast beef, fresh buns, salads, beans, a variety of desserts, and beverages. The supper was entirely funded through the support of more than 35 local Mannville businesses, highlighting the strong commitment local businesses have to giving back to their community.

The evening provided an opportunity for residents to come together, enjoy good food, and connect with one another in a welcoming and festive atmosphere. Organizers expressed their appreciation for the overwhelming support and attendance and shared their hope to once again serve the community at a similar event next year.

"As the holiday season approaches, the Customer Appreciation Supper served as a reminder of the generosity and unity that define Mannville. Merry Christmas to one and all," said one of the organizers Jim Storch.

Okotoks Elks



Record-Breaking Christmas Bingo at Okotoks Elks

The December 22nd Christmas Bingo at the Okotoks Elks was nothing short of incredible, welcoming a record-breaking 185 guests — the largest turnout ever!

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the evening raised an impressive \$2,637.60 in food and cash donations for the local Food Bank. Guests also enjoyed festive giveaways, and one very lucky winner went home with a 50" television in exchange for their Food Bank donation.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all of our generous prize donors, including Save-On-Foods, Sobey's, Ricky's, Denny's, Freddie's, FreshCo, RJ Sigurdson, Take the Cake 94, the Okotoks Elks, and our many loyal Bingo players who continue to support these events.

It was truly a memorable night filled with generosity, laughter, and holiday spirit — a perfect way to celebrate the season together. Thank you to everyone who helped make this Christmas Bingo such a success!



Our New Website — Help Us Bring It to Life!

Work is well underway on the new Alberta Elks Association website, and we're excited about the direction it's taking. The goal is to create a modern, welcoming space that reflects who we are, what we do, and the impact our lodges have across Alberta.

To help bring the site to life, we're asking lodges to submit photos that showcase the fun, fellowship, and community spirit of the Elks. We're looking for candid, people-focused moments — events in action, volunteers at work, members enjoying time together, youth and family activities, and behind-the-scenes snapshots that tell our story.

At this time, we are not seeking cheque presentation photos. The website is about highlighting the heart of the Elks and the experiences that make our lodges vibrant.

Photos can be emailed to abelkscommunication@gmail.com or sent to the Association Secretary.

Thank you for helping us build a website that truly reflects the spirit and energy of the Alberta Elks.



Affiliation Fee Reminder

This is a reminder that affiliation fees are due to both the Alberta Elks Association and Grand Lodge. Lodge Secretaries will be receiving separate invoices from each.

We are encouraging all lodges to be fully up to date by May 1.

Please note that, as outlined in our bylaws, 2026 membership stickers will not be issued if affiliation fees have not been received by the office.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for helping ensure every lodge remains in good standing.



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