

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

February 2026



February Message

Building Our Story Together Call for Photos & Website Updates

Across Alberta, Elks lodges are making a difference every day—supporting families, partnering with local organizations, mentoring youth, and keeping the spirit of service alive in their communities. These stories deserve to be seen, shared, and celebrated.

As we continue to update and strengthen our Alberta Elks website and communications, we need your help. Photos and short write-ups from lodges are essential to showing the real impact of our work across the province.

Whether it's a cheque presentation, a community event, a volunteer project, or simply members gathering together, these moments tell the story of who we are.

How you can help:

- Send photos of your lodge activities and presentations
- Include a short caption (who, what, where, and why)
- Share upcoming events or community partnerships
- Email submissions to the Alberta Communications team

By sharing your stories, you help:

- Promote the Elks in your community
- Attract new members
- Strengthen our provincial presence
- Show the impact of our collective service

Together, we are building a stronger, more visible Alberta Elks—one story at a time.
Send all photos to: abelkscommunication@gmail.com

Every lodge has a story—when we share it, we strengthen the Elks across Alberta



President's Schedule

Feb 19 Trenville Royal Purple Elks Lodge # 248

Feb 23 Stettler Elks Lodge # 92

Feb 24 Big Valley Elks Lodge # 147

“Together We Can”



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Meet First Vice-President (President-Elect)



Name: Brother Vern Thuroo

Position: 1st Vice-President / Provincial President Elect

Home Lodge: Hanna Elks Lodge #451

Years of Membership: 38 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I joined to get involved in the community and help build new systems and supports. I also wanted to work with youth and help them become the future leaders of tomorrow.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: Seeing what the Elks have accomplished across our Association and throughout Canada, and the people I've met along the way, has kept me motivated and proud to be part of this organization.

Q: What are your goals as Provincial President?

A: My focus is on getting out to work with lodges that need support in their communities and increasing the visibility of the Elks across the Association.

Q: Favourite quote?

A: "The early bird gets the worm."

Meet Sister Lynda Petten Alberta Elks Foundation Trustee



Name: Lynda Petten

Position: Foundation Trustee

Home Lodges: Breton #402 and Red Deer #85

Years of Membership: 43 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: My family belonged to both the Elks and Royal Purple, and I saw the good they were doing in the community. I enjoy volunteering, and I discovered this was the ideal way to get involved.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: I truly enjoyed the positions I held, and they gave me the opportunity to meet and talk with like-minded people from across the country. AEA-Executive Bio Form

Q: What does "Promoting and Supporting Community Needs" mean to you?

A: Helping wherever our organization can help.



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When our work is visible, our impact—and our membership—grows.



Bring the Fun to Your Community Event! 🎉

Make your event unforgettable this summer by renting our float and mascot! Perfect for parades, festivals, school events, fundraisers, and community celebrations, they're a guaranteed crowd-pleaser for kids and adults alike.

Whether you're boosting visibility, building excitement, or creating memorable moments, our float and mascot add instant energy and engagement to any event.

📅 Now booking for summer months

📍 Community-focused

📷 Photo-perfect

🍷 Fun, friendly, and unforgettable

The application form for the Float and Charlie can be found on the website under forms, or you can contact the Alberta Elks Foundation secretary for booking availability.

The conference is approaching, along with the grant deadline of May 1 for applications exceeding \$2,000! In recent years, applications of all amounts have been on the decline. Make sure to promote your Lodge within the community by undertaking a project, and let the Alberta Elks Foundation assist with some of your 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

Charlie and His Float

Parade season is coming up so get your applications in early as it is first come, first served. Summer rental is \$200.00. A great way to promote your Lodge in your local communities

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

ALBERTA ELKS FOUNDATION

57th ANNUAL RAFFLE

First Prize
\$30,000 CASH

Second Prize
\$10,000 CASH TICKETS \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Third Prize
\$5,000 CASH

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

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE ENABLE US TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO:

- ISTAR - Institute for Shuttering Treatment & Research
- Local Community Projects
- Support Local Minor Sports, Youth Clinics, Programs, etc.
- Assistance for Underprivileged Children
- Gifts Equipment to Low and Lower Income Schools
- Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children
- Supply Hearing Aids and Sides for Lumberjacks

Early Bird Draws
March 12, 2026
3 prizes of \$750.00 Each

FINAL DRAW DATE JUNE 25, 2026
All draws to take place at the Didsbury Elks Hall, 1914 - 20th St, Didsbury, AB.

TICKETS AVAILABLE
Local Contact: www.elksfalberta.ca

We're excited to see such a strong start to the 57th Annual Alberta Elks Foundation Raffle, supporting community programs and charitable initiatives across the province.

This long-standing tradition helps fund important programs like Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elks Kits, and ISTAR Scholarships—all of which directly support children and families across Alberta.

Your participation helps the Alberta Elks Foundation continue its vital work in our communities. If your members are out selling tickets, please share it on your Facebook page and tag the Alberta Elks Association so we can help spread the word.;

Remember: the first draw is March 12.

Every ticket helps us make a difference together.

Walk for Children 2026 Bringing the Walk Back to Our Communities

For generations, the Walk for Children has been a proud part of who we are as Elks. It is more than a fundraiser—it is a visible expression of our commitment to children, families, and the communities we serve.

In recent years, many lodges have continued to support the Walk through donations and presentations. While that generosity remains vital, participation has declined and the event has become less visible in many communities.

This year, we have an opportunity to bring the Walk for Children back into the public eye—in ways that are simple, flexible, and achievable for every lodge.

Three Simple Pathways for Lodges

Every lodge is at a different stage. Some are strong and active. Others are rebuilding. With that in mind, lodges are invited to choose one of three ways to participate.

1. School Walk Partner

- Partner with a local elementary school to host a simple walk in June.
- Lodges can provide volunteers, small prizes, or help organize the walk.

2. Community Walk Host

- Host a small, family-friendly walk in a local park or trail.
- This can be combined with a BBQ, picnic, or open house.

3. Supporter Lodge

If your lodge is not able to host or partner this year, you can still:

- Make a donation to the Walk for Children fund
- Send volunteers to support another lodge
- Help promote the event locally

Why This Matters

The Walk for Children is one of the most visible ways we demonstrate our values of Equality, Love, Kindness, and Service.

The Walk for Children is one of the most visible ways we live our values of Equality, Love, Kindness, and Service. By bringing the Walk back into schools and community spaces, we also reconnect our lodges with the people we serve.

The goal is simple:

More footsteps. More families. More visibility.

Together, we can bring the Walk for Children back into our communities—one step at a time.



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OKOTOKS ELKS



Support Prairie Dolphins Water Polo Club

The members of Okotoks Elks Lodge #31 are proud to continue their tradition of service and community partnership. Recently, the Lodge presented a cheque for \$4,000 to the Prairie Dolphins Water Polo Club in recognition of the outstanding volunteer spirit shown by their parents and students.

Okotoks Elks Lodge #31 recently presented a cheque for \$4,000 to the Prairie Dolphins Water Polo Club in recognition of the more than 100 volunteer hours contributed by their parents and students over the past two months. The partnership is a great example of what can happen when local groups work together in the spirit of service.

So far in 2025, the Okotoks Elks have given back \$67,596 to their community, supporting a variety of local initiatives.

The Lodge is also seeing encouraging growth, having welcomed 16 new members over the past three months—bringing fresh energy and a shared commitment to giving back.

WETASKIWIN ELKS



Wetaskiwin Elks Support FCSS Children's Indoor Play Space

Wetaskiwin Elks Lodge #22 recently made a \$9,000 matching donation in partnership with the Alberta Elks Foundation to support the FCSS Children's Indoor Play Space program in Wetaskiwin.

This important initiative provides a safe, welcoming environment where children can play, learn, and connect, while parents and caregivers access support, build relationships, and strengthen their families.

The program reflects the Elks' long-standing commitment to investing in the well-being of children and communities.

Through partnerships like this, the Wetaskiwin Elks continue to make a meaningful difference for local families and help create spaces where children can thrive.

Upcoming Events



Vulcan Elks Oyster Dinner

Thursday, February 19, 2026
Vulcan Legion Hall

Cocktails 5:00pm – Dinner 6:00pm

Ticket \$50.00
(No Tickets sold at the door)

Tickets Available at

UFA Petroleum, Iron Edge Salon, Legion, Latinum Loonie

Home Hardware & Goldhawk Printing or

Duane Felt - 403-485-6711 E-Transfer available

Proceeds go to Vulcan Elks Programs

BIG VALLEY ELKS

100th
Anniversary

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026

Big Valley Community Hall

Refreshments: 5pm

Supper: 6pm

Entertainment: Kent & Josh Nixon

Door Prize

tickets: \$50/per person
contact: David 403-740-5177



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BIG VALLEY ELKS



Big Valley Elks Support Trochu Seniors Housing

The Big Valley Elks Lodge recently made a generous contribution to the Trochu Seniors Housing Society. Larry Meyer presented a cheque for \$2,000, which will be matched for a total donation of \$4,000 to support the new seniors housing facility currently under development.

The funds will help furnish and equip the new space, ensuring it provides a safe, caring, and community-focused environment for seniors in Trochu and the surrounding area.

The Trochu Seniors Housing Society expressed heartfelt thanks to the Elks for their ongoing commitment to local communities. With long-time Elks members among their supporters, they know firsthand the difference the organization continues to make.

Through donations like this, the Big Valley Elks are helping create welcoming spaces where seniors can live with comfort, dignity, and connection.

BARRHEAD ELKS



Barrhead Elks Support Local Arts

Barrhead Elks Lodge #332 is proud to support the local arts community with a \$5,000 donation to the Barrhead Arts Council.

This contribution will help support programming and activities at the historic Barrhead Roxy Theatre, a valued cultural hub in the community. Members and residents alike can look forward to an upcoming event at the theatre made possible through this support.

Through partnerships like this, the Barrhead Elks continue to invest in community culture, creativity, and connection.

ELK POINT ELKS



Elk Point Elks Attend Fireman's Ball

Members of the Elk Point Elks were proud to attend the Fireman's Ball on February 7, 2026, hosted by the Elk Point Firefighters Association at the Allied Arts & Leisure Centre.

The evening of dinner, auctions, and dancing brought the community together in support of the local fire department, and the Elks were happy to be part of the celebration.

VEGREVILLE ELKS



Vegreville Elks Support Local Organizations

Better late than never! The Vegreville Elks Lodge recently presented \$1,000 cheques to three important community groups: the Vegreville Food Bank, the Vegreville Christmas Bureau, and the Wendy Brook Music Association.

These donations reflect the Lodge's continued commitment to supporting families, community programs, and the arts in Vegreville.



STAVELY ELKS



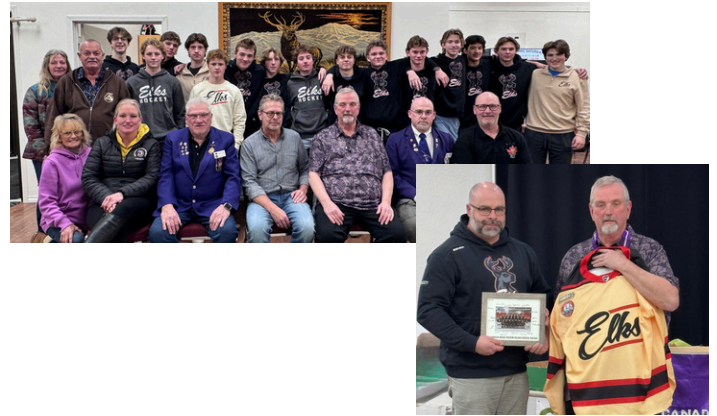
Stavely Elks Support Junior Curling

Stavely Elks Lodge was pleased to present \$1,000 cheques to both the Claresholm Curling Club and the Nanton Curling Club in support of their junior curling programs.

Pictured are Randall Hall of the Claresholm Curling Club and Gordon Moon of the Nanton Curling Club accepting the donations from Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson.

The contributions will help support young athletes and encourage participation in the sport across the region.

RED DEER ELKS



Celebrating Partnership with AA Minor Hockey Team

Red Deer Elks Lodge #85 recently hosted the Elks AA Minor Hockey Team for a pizza dinner following a lodge meeting. Head Coach Parker presented the Lodge with a team photo and a custom jersey for the 2025–2026 season in appreciation of their support.

Members from the Sundre and Ponoka Elks also joined the evening. The team has collected over six five-gallon pails of tabs and, for the past three years, has visited the Lodge to thank members for their sponsorship.

Proudly playing as the Elks Hockey Club, the team represents lodges across the region—truly making us Elk Proud.

PINCHER CREEK ELKS

Pincher Creek Elks Lodge #474 Welcomes New Members

Volunteerism is the cornerstone of Canadian communities, and Pincher Creek Elks Lodge #474 continues to lead by example. The Lodge recently welcomed five new community members into its ranks.

The new members were formally initiated with the help of members from Stavely Elks Lodge, who travelled to Pincher Creek to conduct the initiation ritual. It was a meaningful evening that highlighted the strong sense of fellowship and support shared between lodges.

Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives help keep the Lodge strong, while experienced members step in as mentors to guide them and involve them in the many activities and events the Elks support.

Volunteerism at the Lodge is more than a commitment—it's a pathway to personal growth, community connection, and lifelong friendships. With new members joining, Pincher Creek Elks #474 continues to strengthen the spirit of Equality, Love, Kindness, and Service in their community.

Submitted by Christine Penney, Interim District Deputy, District 14



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STRATHMORE ELKS

Strathmore Elks Turn Grief into Mental Health Action



The Strathmore Elks Lodge 491 has turned personal tragedy into a powerful community initiative supporting mental health across Strathmore and Wheatland County. After the loss of a fellow Elk to suicide, members chose not to let grief sit in silence. Instead, led by Brother Sean Duthie's call to action, the Lodge partnered with Strathmore FCSS and Wheatland County FCSS to create a program that improves access to mental health care for residents who face financial or wait-time barriers.



Through funds raised by the Elks and community supporters, individuals and families can now apply through either FCSS office for free or low-cost counselling. The process is intentionally simple: a short intake, followed by a match with one of several counselling partners in the community. Both in-person and virtual options are available, ensuring support reaches those who need it most.

Beyond counselling, the committee has launched a travelling education program focused on mental health awareness, recognizing signs of distress, and connecting people with resources. Sessions begin February 21 in Carseland, with additional dates scheduled for Gleichen, Standard, and Rockyford.



Now entering its second year, the initiative has already made a significant impact. Last year's inaugural Strathmore Elks Mental Health golf tournament and a sold-out dinner gala raised over \$20,000—funds that are now directly supporting residents seeking counselling.

The committee's mission is simple but vital: build awareness, reduce stigma, and ensure that no one in the region faces mental health challenges alone.

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LAC LA BICHE ELKS



Lac La Biche Elks Recognized for Ongoing Support

The Lac La Biche Regional Health Authority recently expressed their gratitude to the Lac La Biche Elks for their continued support over the years.

Board member Dianne L'Heureux presented the Lodge with a plaque in appreciation of their contributions to local health initiatives. Pictured at the presentation are Ed Thring, Danny Stevens, Dianne L'Heureux, and Greg Beatch.

The recognition highlights the lasting impact the Lac La Biche Elks continue to have in supporting health services within their community.



Alberta Elks Association

2026 AGM

June 10-13

Hanna Elks Lodge # 451

Elks of Canada

2026 AGM

July 14-16

Gander Elks Lodge # 310

Join the Alberta Elks Foundation Reaching Out to Others

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.



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