

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

March 2025



Bassano Elks Lodge

This is Tripp, a two-year-old boy currently battling Stage 4 cancer. No child and no family should ever have to face something like this.

When Brother Albert, a member of our Lodge shared that his grandson was fighting this difficult battle, it was clear that the Bassano Elks Lodge needed to step in and support one of our own. After hearing Tripp's story from his grandmother, Sister Gina, the Lodge immediately began planning a way to help.

On February 28th, the Lodge hosted "Cornhole for a Cause" to raise funds for Tripp and his family.

Once word spread about the event, the response from the community was incredible. The Lodge quickly filled, the love and support poured in from every corner, and it was truly an emotional and powerful day for everyone involved.

By the end of the event, over \$12,000 had been raised to support Tripp and his family.

The Bassano Elks cannot express enough gratitude to everyone who helped make the day such a success — our members, all who played in the tournament, those who donated, and the many supporters who travelled from Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and beyond to take part.

A special thank you goes to Evan and the Brooks Bullets Cornhole crew for helping bring this event to life. Watching Evan compete alongside his 10-year-old son, and seeing them finish fourth in the A Division, was a truly memorable moment.

This day was a powerful reminder of what the Elks stand for — coming together to support our community and each other when it matters most.



President's Schedule

Strathmore Elks Lodge # 491 | March 7 at 7:00 PM
Red Deer Elks Lodge # 85 | March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Edson Elks Lodge # 87 | March 10 2026 at 7:30 PM

Carstairs Elks Lodge # 556 | March 11 at 7:00 PM
Chauvin Elks Lodge # 261 | March 16 at 8:00 PM
Viking Elks Lodge # 121 | March 19 at 8:00 PM



elksfalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org



Foundation's Message

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Ladies of the Royal Purple Elks,

It is truly an honour to serve on the Board of Trustees of your Alberta Elks Foundation.

The Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom to ensure we stay up to date on the Foundation's finances, funding requests, float and Charlie requests, maintenance needs, and other important matters.

An important part of our role is also to keep members informed about the work of the Foundation and key deadlines for grant applications.

The Trustees have the authority to approve a General Application, Personal Assistance and Tab for Tots grants for applications that are \$2000.00 or less and do so throughout the year, however **ALL** applications for over \$2000.00 **MUST** be submitted, in its entirety, and received by the Secretary Treasurer **no later than May 1, 2026** to be considered and presented to the members at the Annual Conference held in **Hanna on June 10 – 13, 2026**.

The members at the Conference will review the information submitted and make their decision at that time. It is highly recommended that the Lodge submitting the application should have a member attend and present on the Lodges behalf.

The Foundation is always here to assist you with questions or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to the Secretary/Treasurer, Sister Monica if you require assistance at: **albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com**

To find the current forms go to the Association website > elksofalberta.ca > foundation > foundation-forms

Respectfully submitted,
2025-2026
Alberta Elks Foundation Trustees



🎉 Save the Date: Celebrate 40 Years of ISTAR! 🎉

We're excited to share that the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2026! ISTAR, has been supporting individuals who stutter through research, clinical programs, community engagement, and education since 1986.

Throughout the year, ISTAR will be hosting a series of fun community fundraising and awareness events, contests, and activities to mark four decades of service and impact.

This milestone is a celebration of all who have participated in, contributed to, and been positively affected by ISTAR's work — from clients and families to clinicians and partners.

📅 Mark your calendar — 2026 is going to be a year of celebration and community! Stay tuned for more details on events and opportunities to get involved.



elksofalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

CASINO

The Alberta Elks Foundation Casino has been announced and we are calling on our members to step forward and support one of the Foundation's most important fundraising initiatives of the year.

Dates: August 3 & 4, 2026
Location: Pure Casino Calgary
1420 Meridian Road NE, Calgary

Casinos play a vital role in funding the Alberta Elks Foundation's programs and community supports. The funds raised during these two days directly contribute to the work we do across the Association — helping children, families, and communities through our charitable initiatives.

We are currently seeking members willing to assist in a variety of positions over the two-day event. Whether you can volunteer for one day or both, your time and commitment make a meaningful impact.

Volunteer Details

To make participation accessible and appreciated:

- Hotel accommodations will be arranged on your behalf
- Confirmation details will be provided once booked
- Meals, mileage, and hotel costs are covered by the Foundation

If you are interested in volunteering, please provide the following information:

- Your full name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Preferred position
- The day(s) you are available (August 3, August 4, or both)

Please send your information and any questions to:
Sister Lynda Petten- Casino Chair
lyndapetten@gmail.com

We look forward to building a strong volunteer team and making this casino a success for our Foundation and the communities we serve.



Meet Our Foundation Chair



Name: Brother Duane Romuld Ronald

Position: Foundation Chair

Home Lodge: Brooks Elks Lodge #77

Years of Membership: 45 years (since 1980)

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I joined as a result of a personal invitation from a friend.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: The sense that I was helping to make my community a better place to live has kept me involved and committed to the work of the Elks.

Q: What has been most meaningful about your Elks journey?

A: Having the opportunity to serve at every level of the Order — as Exalted Ruler, District Deputy, Provincial President (2000–2001), and Grand Exalted Ruler (2009–2010) — and contributing to national committees has been both an honour and a privilege.

Q: Community involvement outside the Elks?

A: I have served as a hockey coach, equestrian skating chair, and on the Brooks Recreation Board. Professionally, I worked as an Auto Body Technician and Insurance Appraiser.

Meet Our 2nd Vice President



Name: Lady Lynn Williams

Position: Home Lodge Secretary / 2nd Vice-President Provincial

Home Lodge: Trenville R.P. Elks Lodge #248

Years of Membership: 42 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I joined the Elks because my grandmother asked me to. I saw her and my mother volunteering and wanted to be a part of that tradition of service.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: Going through the stations, helping the community, the camaraderie, and the friendships made over the years have kept me involved.

Q: What has been most meaningful about your Elks journey?

A: I have served in all lodge positions and currently serve as Lodge Secretary. I have also been District Deputy (twice) and have worked at the provincial level on Membership, Marketing & Branding, and Communications. Nationally, I have contributed to Sustainability, Membership, Marketing, and Branding committees.

Q: Community involvement outside the Elks?

A: I represented the communities of Elnora and Delburne and worked for 29 years as a Home Care Aide at St. Mary's in Trochu. I have also served on various community boards while living in Delburne.



Carstairs Elks



A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the Carstairs Elks for their incredibly generous donation to Carstairs Elementary School's outdoor learning space! 🌿

Your support is helping us create meaningful, hands-on learning experiences where students can explore, discover, and grow beyond the classroom walls.

We are truly grateful for your commitment to supporting youth and investing in our community's future. ❤️

Sexsmith Elks



The U18 Curling Nationals begin this Sunday in Saskatoon, and we're proud to share that two talented curlers from Sexsmith — Jaxon Hiebert and Varyk Doepker — will be representing Alberta on the Pete Hlushak rink based out of Edmonton.

As they prepare to compete on the national stage, we would like to extend a special thank you to Sexsmith Elks #284 for their generous financial support to help cover travel expenses for Nationals. Your investment in local youth and sport makes opportunities like this possible.

Best of luck to Jaxon, Varyk, and the entire team- we will all be cheering you on! ❤️🏳️‍🌈

Upcoming Events

BANGER BINGO
Saturday March 28

18+ Hosted by Chauvin Elks

BANGER BINGO: SPRING FLING
80s PARTY ENERGY • ADULTS ONLY • LOUD FUN

Chauvin Community Hall

PRIZES For Best 80's Style
Tickets \$40

Doors Open 7pm
Cocktail hour
Show 8-10pm
DJ Party 10-12am
Last Call 1am
Food Truck Onsite until 10pm

For tickets contact
Neil Benoit 780-753-7778
Aric Pare 780-872-8933

ELKS OF CANADA
LODGE #129

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

A Centennial Celebration

DINNER & DUELLING PIANOS

FORT MACLEOD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY HALL

DOORS & CASH BAR OPEN 5:00 PM
DINNER SERVED 6:00 PM
ENTERTAINMENT AT 7:30 PM

APRIL 11th, 2026

TICKETS \$60.00 IN ADVANCE

CONTACT: Shyla Feroz 403-849-1884 | Jill Burrows 403-382-7938 | Message us at 403-382-7938
FORT MACLEOD ELKS LODGE #129

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

ELKS

Stavely Royal Purple Elks

FUNDRAISER to support our communities

BBQ RIB MEAL

TO GO

MONDAY MARCH 30, 2026

PICK UP: Stavely Community Center
Stavely, Alberta **5-PM to 7-PM**

\$30 PER MEAL

PREPAID ORDERS ONLY
Deadline to order March 25th

TO ORDER: Contact
Sande @403-625-0292
or Mary @ 403-336-2227



elksocalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

Picture Butte Elks



The Picture Butte Elks are proud to support youth in our community through a donation to Picture Butte Minor Hockey as they prepare for Provincials.

Minor Hockey Provincials are an exciting milestone for young athletes — a celebration of hard work, teamwork, and dedication throughout the season. Travel, accommodations, and tournament costs can quickly add up, and community support makes a real difference.

We wish all Picture Butte Minor Hockey teams the very best at Provincials — skate hard, play with heart, and enjoy every moment!

Barrhead Elks



The Barrhead Elks are proud to support the Barrhead High School Model United Nations Team with a \$3,000 donation to assist with participation in upcoming 2026 conferences across Alberta.

Model UN events — including AIMUN at MacEwan University and the University of Alberta's High School Model UN — give students the opportunity to explore global issues, debate solutions, and build leadership skills rooted in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

By investing in youth leadership and education, the Barrhead Elks are helping shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Hanna Elks

The Hanna Elks, in partnership with the Alberta Elks Foundation, were proud to support the next generation of skilled workers in Alberta by sponsoring a local Health Career day to help teach high school students about the different jobs and careers both hospitals and long term care centers offer.

Through this event, students were able to gain hands-on experience and learn about a variety of career paths, including roles in healthcare, emergency medicine, and ambulance services.

Opportunities like this help young people explore potential careers, connect with professionals in their community, and better understand the skills needed for Alberta's future workforce.

The Hanna Elks are proud to support initiatives that invest in youth, education, and the future of our communities.



The Future of Alberta Elks Needs You

We are currently seeking new members for the **Association Executive**, along with dedicated **Committee Members** and **District Deputies** to help guide our organization forward.

This is more than a title — it's an opportunity to:

- ✓ Strengthen lodges across Alberta
- ✓ Mentor emerging leaders
- ✓ Help shape policy and direction
- ✓ Build momentum toward our 2028 Centennial

If you've ever said, "Someone should..." — this is your moment.

Whether you're a seasoned member or someone ready for the next step in your Elks journey, there is a place for you at the Association level.

- ♦ This is how we build sustainability.
- ♦ This is how we strengthen communication.
- ♦ This is how we ensure the next generation inherits something strong.

✉ To express your interest, please email the Association at: elks.secretary@abelks.org

Be part of the team shaping the next 100 years.



Breton Elks



On February 16th, Breton Elks Lodge #402 hosted a Family Day Pancake Breakfast at the Breton Community Centre. Families and friends enjoyed a hot breakfast served fresh from the steam table, along with great conversation and community spirit.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to our dedicated volunteers who made the morning such a success. This is what the Elks are all about — fellowship, service, and bringing our community together.

Stavely Elks



Stavely Elks Supporting Community at Every Level

Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson recently presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Stavely Community Chest Secretary Ramona Whittingham in support of their vital local initiatives.

The Stavely Community Chest is a grassroots charitable organization dedicated to supporting residents and funding community projects in the town of Stavely and surrounding area. The organization assists 19 different charities as well as the Stavely Emergency Fund — ensuring help is available when it's needed most.

The Community Chest continues to receive strong local support, including past contributions from the Alberta Elks Foundation, reinforcing a shared commitment to community care.



elksfalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

Barrhead Elks



Bruce and Bill from the Barrhead Elks, stopped by the pool to present the Blue Fins Swim Club with a \$5,000.00 cheque to help them prepare for their swim meet, which they hosted February 21.

Carstairs Elks



It was a wonderful evening in Carstairs with a fantastic supper meeting and an official visit from District Deputy Brother Dwayne Dowell.

The lodge welcomed presentations from four community groups seeking support, followed by a productive meeting with 38 Brothers and Sisters in attendance — a great show of engagement and Elk pride.

To top off the evening, DD Dowell presented the Traveling Gavel to Exalted Ruler Tim Jochems on behalf of the Vulcan Lodge.



Congratulations to our Alberta darts players who competed in the qualifying rounds and have earned their spot at the National Tournament in May!

Your dedication, skill, and sportsmanship represent Alberta with pride. We know the hard work that goes into preparing for competition at this level, and we are incredibly proud of each of you.

Best of luck at Nationals — Alberta is cheering you on!

Didsbury Elks



The Carstairs Elks Lodge recently made the trip north to Didsbury, proudly carrying the District 12 Traveling Gavel with them.

They were warmly welcomed by the Didsbury Lodge and treated to an incredible pork tenderloin supper with all the trimmings — handcrafted by Didsbury's own Exalted Ruler, Rick. Now that's Elk hospitality at its finest!

Great food, great fellowship, and great Elk spirit — exactly what the Traveling Gavel tradition is all about.



Breton Elks



Breton Elks Lodge #402 is pleased to announce the signing of a new 10-year agreement with the Village of Breton to maintain and operate the Breton R.V. Park.

Exalted Ruler Sister Ann McKeller-Gillis and CEO Natasha Morrisey formally signed the contract, marking a continued partnership between the Lodge and the Village. This agreement reflects the trust and collaboration built over the years and ensures the R.V. Park will continue to be well maintained for residents and visitors alike.

The Breton Elks remain committed to supporting community initiatives and contributing to the growth and vitality of our Village.

Barrhead Elks



Bruce of the Barrhead Elks Lodge proudly presented a cheque for \$800.00 to Dawn Cramer of the Little Rocks Junior Curling Club.

The Little Rocks and Junior Curling Program introduces children aged 7 and up to the sport of curling, providing a fun and supportive environment to learn the fundamentals of the game. The program serves as an important stepping stone for young athletes, helping them build skills, confidence, and a lifelong love of the sport.

The Barrhead Elks are proud to support local youth programs that encourage participation, teamwork, and community involvement.

Heisler Elks



♥ **Community Supporting Community!** ♥

Pictured above, Heisler Elks Exalted Ruler Mac Weller (R) proudly presents a cheque for \$6,347.35 to Heisler Hall Board member — and Past Provincial President — Brother James Zimmer (L) to help cover much-needed roofing repairs.

It's always a great day when Elks are helping keep the roof (literally!) over a community space. And when a past President is on the receiving end for a project that benefits the whole community? Even better!

Rosalind Elks



♥ **Supporting the McTavish Family – Rosalind**

Through funding received from a grant provided by the Alberta Elks Foundation, the Rosalind Elks were honoured to present a cheque to Mike and Emily McTavish of Rosalind, whose baby recently required care in the NICU.

A NICU stay brings unexpected stress, travel, and financial strain for families already focused on their child's health. Thanks to the incredible medical staff, their baby received the specialized care needed, and the Lodge was grateful for the opportunity to offer support during this challenging time.

Brother Adrian Tobler presented the cheque on behalf of the Rosalind Elks, reminding the family that their community stands beside them.

This is what it means to be an Elk — neighbours helping neighbours when it matters most. ♥