

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

April 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brothers, Sisters and Ladies of the Royal Purple,

Conference is where we come together to connect, share, and shape the future of our Association—and I would truly love to see some new faces this year.

If you've never attended before, consider this your invitation.

If you're busy, come for a few hours.
If you're curious, come and see.

There is no expectation—only opportunity:

- Connect with members from across the province
- Hear what's happening beyond your Lodge
- Discover where you might fit

Bring a friend, encourage someone new, or take that first step yourself.
Because the future of our Order grows when we show up.

I hope to see you there !



President's Travel

Delburne Elks Lodge # 206 April 20, 2026

Stettler Royal Purple Elks Lodge # 60 April 27, 2026

Whitehorse Elks Lodge # 306 May, 06 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT



The future of our Order is not something we wait for—it is something we build, together.

Now is the time to envision where you can make an impact—at home in your Lodge. or serving your District, the Association, or the Foundation level. Our organization doesn't just need volunteers; it needs your ideas, your leadership, and your vision to move forward.

Take a moment to look around your Lodge. Who has the spark to lead? Who is ready to take that next step? Reach out, encourage them, and support their journey.

Whether you are stepping forward for the first time or helping guide someone else along the way, your role matters.

Stand up at your next meeting and put your name forward!

Because your name on the ballot is more than a nomination—it is a commitment to a strong, thriving Elkdom.



MIGHTY LIL' ELK PROGRAM REACHES NEW MILESTONE WITH 500 CARE BAGS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS ALBERTA

The Alberta Elks Foundation is proud to celebrate another successful year of its Mighty Lil' Elk program, with a remarkable 500 care bags packed and distributed to hospitals across the province.

Designed to support families during unexpected medical emergencies, Mighty Lil' Elk care bags provide comfort and essential items for children when parents don't have time to prepare. The program continues to make a meaningful impact in communities by helping ease stress during difficult moments.

Care bags distributed to Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer were purchased directly by the Alberta Elks Foundation, demonstrating its continued commitment to supporting families in need across Alberta.

In addition, Elks lodges across Alberta demonstrated outstanding community leadership by purchasing and supplying care bags directly to their local hospitals. Participating lodges included: Wainwright, Leslieville, Gwendale, Hythe Royal Purple, Beaverlodge, Big Valley, Drayton Valley, Valleyview, and Brooks.

The continued growth of the Mighty Lil' Elk program reflects the strength of community partnerships and the dedication of Elks members throughout the province. Each bag represents compassion in action—ensuring that when families face the unexpected, they are not alone.

The Alberta Elks Foundation extends sincere thanks to all lodges, volunteers, and supporters who contributed their time and resources to make this initiative a success.

At this time, 26 Mighty Lil' Elk care bags remain available for lodges interested in supporting their local hospitals. These bags will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Lodges wishing to access these remaining bags are encouraged to contact the Alberta Elks Foundation Secretary.

Together, we are making a difference—one bag at a time.



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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 > elksfalberta.ca > foundation > foundation-forms

Respectfully submitted,
2025-2026
Alberta Elks Foundation Trustees

57TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS



Congratulations to Mike Page who won one of the Alberta Elks Foundation 57th Annual Raffle Early Bird prizes in March.

Ticket sold by the Strathmore Elks.

Pictured here: Brother Fred SWweere ® and Mike Page

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIG VALLEY ELKS
100th
Anniversary
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
Big Valley Community Hall
Refreshments: 5pm
Supper: 6pm
Entertainment: Kent & Josh Nixon
Door Prize

ELKS

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

SUNDRE ELKS
SUPER ANNUAL
MARATHON BINGO

THE MOST ANTICIPATED EVENT OF THE YEAR!

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
SUNDRE ELKS HALL
113 1 Ave SW, Sundre
Doors Open: 9:30 AM
Sales Start: 11:00 AM • Pre-call to follow

Dinner Provided
Lots of Games & Prizes to be Won!

SPOTS FILL FAST!
\$20 DEPOSIT HOLDS YOUR SEAT
(Comes off the cost of your cards)

E-TRANSFER: sundre338@gmail.com
Please include your FULL NAME, EVENT, and how many are attending

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
• Michelle: 587-444-7502
• Barkley: 587-897-0917

Save the Date

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

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

CASINO

Volunteers Needed

Alberta Elks Foundation Casino
August 3rd and 4th, 2026
Pure Casino
1420 Meridian Road NE
Calgary

If you wish to volunteer, send me your name, your email address and phone number. Provide me with the preferred position and the number of days you wish to work.

Hotel rooms will be booked by myself. Your confirmation numbers will be sent to you once bookings have been completed. Rooms, meals and mileage will be paid by the Foundation.

Send your information and/or questions to:
Lynda Petton
Casino Chair
lyndapetton@gmail.com



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MEET OUR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT



Name: Brother Vern Thuroo

Position: 1st Vice President-President Elect

Home Lodge: Hanna Elks Lodge #

Years of Membership: 45 years (since 1980)

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I joined to help my community grow and support those who needed a hand up. It also gave me the opportunity to meet people and see different parts of the country.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: The people I've met and the opportunity to get out, connect, and truly understand what volunteering is all about.

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

A: Being able to actively support my community and help bring Elkdom into the public eye through volunteering and partnerships.

Q: Community involvement outside the Elks?

A: Involved with the Hanna Ag Society, served as a Town Councillor, supported hospital auxiliary efforts, and participated in junior curling initiatives.

MEET OUR SECRETARY-TREASURER



Name: Sister Joanne Siemens

Position: Association Secretary-Treasurer

Home Lodge: Edmonton Elks Lodge # 11 / Edmonton Royal Purple Elks #22

Years of Membership: 11 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I joined to help charter the Edmonton Royal Purple Elks #22 and to serve as a volunteer in my community while promoting the Elks of Canada.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: The people I have met across Alberta who are Elks members have kept me engaged and inspired.

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

A: Being part of building something meaningful in my community and working alongside dedicated members who share a passion for service.

Q: Community involvement outside the Elks?

A: I work as an Executive Assistant with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CRPNA). I am actively involved in my community, serving as Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for the Ekota Parent Council, and supporting youth sports as a U11 Coordinator for Sherwood Park Ball Hockey and Assistant Manager for the U13 Northern Lights Ball Hockey team.



RED DEER ELKS



Red Deer Elks #85 recently turned up the volume with an incredible night of live music, hosting the Memphis Mafia Band—and what a turnout it was!

With over 90 people in attendance, the lodge welcomed guests from across the province, including Cold Lake, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Calgary, and Rocky Mountain House.

The evening was filled with great music, strong community spirit, and the kind of energy that reminds us what the Elks are all about—bringing people together, creating memorable experiences, and making our lodges vibrant gathering places once again.

BOW ISLAND ELKS



On March 10th, Bow Island Elks #440 proudly gave back to their community in a big way—presenting a series of meaningful donations that will directly support local health care and essential services.

Their contributions included:

\$15,000 to the **Bow Island & District Health Foundation** to help upgrade cupboards and appliances in the Long Term Care Dining Room—enhancing comfort and daily living for residents.

\$25,500 to the **40 Mile Foundation** and **Pleasant View Lodge**, helping fund a new therapeutic tub that will enhance comfort, care, and quality of life for residents.

\$6,000 to **HALO** Air Ambulance to support the critical operations of their helicopter ambulance service.

\$10,000 to **40 Mile Food Bank**, helping ensure individuals and families have access to food and essential supports when they need it most.

These donations are more than just numbers—they represent compassion, commitment, and the powerful impact of community-driven fundraising. A heartfelt thank you to the members of Bow Island Elks #440 for their continued dedication to supporting their community. This is what it means to invest in others.

1st Photo: Front Row: Nelson Braden, Garry Repas, Randi Lynn, Brenda Liggett, Wes Laidlaw, Brett Wozniak
Back Row: Robin Knibbs, Dennis Thacker, Brad Hopkins, Gavin Thacker, Travis Noga

2nd Photo: Front Row: Nelson Braden, Garry Repas, Kyle Robertson, Jim Babe, Joyce Turner, Tyson Ormann, Wes Laidlaw
Back Row: Wade Gyorfi, Robin Knibbs, Dennis Thacker, Brad Hopkins, Travis Noga, Gavin Thacker

3rd Photo: Front Row: Nelson Braden, Garry Repas, Dale Thacker, Wes Laidlaw, Gavin Thacker.
Back Row: Wade Gyorfi, Robin Knibbs, Dennis Thacker, Brad Hopkins



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EDMONTON ELKS



Edmonton Elks #11 presented a cheque for \$3,950 to support ball hockey registration fees, presented by ER Bro. Andy Turner to Kim Street, Manager, and Connor Street of Northern Lights Ball Hockey.

SEXSMITH ELKS



Sexsmith Elks are proud to support their community in many ways—from sponsoring local high school rodeo events in Teepee Creek to supporting early learning initiatives.

They were also pleased to donate to the local play school to help purchase sensory items for specialized learning, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for children.

VEGREVILLE ELKS



Vegreville Elks Lodge #143 continues to make a meaningful impact in their community through ongoing support of health care, youth, and local initiatives.

At their March 5 meeting, the lodge presented a cheque for \$3,250 to Janet Hope of St. Joseph's Hospital as part of a five-year commitment totaling \$17,850. This funding will support the purchase of a tilt table and vital signs monitor, enhancing patient care at the hospital.

Continuing their March contributions, the lodge also donated \$1,816 to the Vegreville Composite High School curling team, helping cover expenses for their provincial competition in Lloydminster.

In addition, Vegreville Elks Lodge #143 presented a cheque for \$500 to Bro. Bernie Florkow in support of the St. Michaels District Community and Agriculture Society. This donation will contribute to the Haying in the 30's Cancer Fundraising Event—an initiative close to the community and one that Bro. Bernie actively supports as both a lodge member and dedicated fundraiser.



STRATHMORE ELKS



Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 continues to support mental health initiatives in their community, contributing \$500 to a local organization focused on mental health services.

In partnership with the Chestermere Hump Hockey Team, Bro. Bill Jones and members of the Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 also presented cheques totaling \$1,500 to Synergy Connections.

Accepting the donation on behalf of Synergy was Chestermere Mayor Shannon Dean—also known on the ice as “The Ref.”

Synergy Connections provides vital mental health and counselling services for youth and families in the local community.

OKOTOKS ELKS



Okotoks Elks would like to congratulate Kennedy on winning the "Chase the Ace" draw. We maxed out at \$6,500.

Our Junior Elks Program had orientation on March 12 and we have 14 youth signed up who will host their first meeting April 2nd. Four more new members will be initiated April 2nd Membership meeting.



Following an exciting competition in Okotoks, we are proud to introduce the players who will represent Alberta at the upcoming National Tournament this May in Oliver, BC.

A total of 21 players have officially qualified, and for the first time in recent years, Alberta will be sending a full roster to Nationals—a true testament to the strength and momentum of our members across the province.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Okotoks Elks Lodge and community for their outstanding hospitality and support in hosting this year's event. Your efforts helped create a welcoming, energetic atmosphere that made the weekend a success for all involved.

The energy, skill, and camaraderie shown throughout the competition have set the stage for something special.

Watch out, Canada—Alberta is ready to compete, and ready to win!



FORT MACLEOD JR ELKS



FORT MACLEOD WELCOMES THE JR ELKS PROGRAM

Exciting things are happening in Fort Macleod as the next generation of Elks begins to take shape! Fort MacLeod is now home to a growing JR Elks Program, bringing youth together to learn, lead, and give back to their community in meaningful ways.

The JR Elks program, supported by Elks of Canada, is designed for youth ages 12–19 and focuses on building leadership skills through volunteering, fundraising, and mentorship. It empowers young people to take initiative, develop confidence, and make a real impact in their communities—while also creating friendships and gaining valuable experience along the way.

Participants have the opportunity to plan events, support local causes, and even access funding to bring their own community projects to life.

Recently, Provincial President Sister Terry Read had the opportunity to meet with the Fort MacLeod JR Elks members. Her visit highlighted just how important this program is—not only for the youth involved, but for the future of our Order. Seeing young people step forward with ideas, energy, and a passion for service is a powerful reminder that what we do today truly shapes tomorrow.

The launch of the JR Elks program in Fort MacLeod represents more than just a new initiative—it is an investment in leadership, community, and the continued growth of Elkdom.

As these young members begin their journey, we look forward to watching their ideas come to life and their impact grow—not only in Fort MacLeod, but across Alberta. The future of the Elks is here—and it's in great hands.



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STAVELY ROYAL PURPLE ELKS



Celebrating Years of Service – Royal Purple Elks

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the dedication and long-standing commitment of our Royal Purple Elks members. Each milestone represents years of service, friendship, and unwavering support for our communities.

5-Year Pins: Lady Pam Steeves, Lady Vi Shannon, Lady Susan Lalonde, Lady Leanne Bateman, and Lady Debbie Bronson

10-Year Pin: Lady Nora Fowler

15-Year Pins: Lady Colleen McPeak, Lady Florence Husted, Lady Mary Ohlheiser and Sister Christine Penny

20-Year Pin: Lady Sande Heidmiller

30-Year Pins: Lady Maxine Ohler, Lady Bev Nelson, and Lady Linda George

40-Year Pins: Lady Lis Gillespie and Lady Darlene Labre

60-Year Pin : Lady Sharen McLean

These milestones are more than just numbers—they reflect decades of service, leadership, and commitment to the values of the Royal Purple and the Elks.

Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for the incredible impact you continue to make.

DAWSON CREEK ELKS



On March 17, 2026, the Dawson Creek Elks Lodge #289 came together to support a local family following a devastating house fire.

The Lodge presented Guy Grenier with gift certificates totaling \$400 to assist with immediate needs as the family begins to rebuild. In addition, Exalted Ruler Frank Ripley personally contributed \$400 toward fuel costs to help ease the burden during this difficult time.

While the family tragically lost their home and belongings, there is immense gratitude that all nine children made it out safely. The family expressed heartfelt appreciation for the support received and shared their gratitude for both the generosity of the Elks and the security of having home insurance as they begin the process of recovery.

Pictured: Guy Grenier with members Doug Becotte, Frank Ripley, Fred Sumners, and Lorraine Sumners



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STRATHMORE ELKS



In recognition of an incredible milestone, Provincial President Sister Terry Read proudly presented the Strathmore Elks Lodge with a commemorative plaque celebrating their 60th Anniversary.

This special presentation honours six decades of dedicated service, community impact, and the lasting legacy built by the members of the Strathmore Lodge. From supporting local initiatives to fostering fellowship and connection, the Lodge has remained a strong and valued presence in their community.

Congratulations to the Strathmore Elks on 60 years of making a difference—and here's to many more years of service ahead!

SLAVE LAKE ELKS



Here is a snapshot of community support in action!

The Slave Lake Elks Lodge #379 proudly made a donation to the Slave Lake Swim Club, helping to support local youth and the continued growth of aquatic programming in the community.

Pictured are several members of the Swim Club, representing the many young athletes who benefit from opportunities like this. Through partnerships such as these, the Elks continue to invest in healthy, active lifestyles and create spaces where youth can build confidence, teamwork, and lifelong skills.

Thank you to the Slave Lake Elks for making a meaningful difference in your community—one initiative at a time.

BRETON ELKS



The Board of the Bentley Senior Citizens Housing Society hosted a successful open house on Saturday, April 18, to recognize and thank the many financial contributors who made recent building upgrades possible.

The total cost of the project was \$25,104.75. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Board's contribution was reduced to \$10,218.52—demonstrating the strong spirit of community support behind this initiative.

Several residents attended the event, sharing their appreciation for the upgrades and personally thanking members of Town Council and the Elks who were present for their contributions.

Exalted Ruler Ann McKellar-Gillis presents a \$2,000 donation to Foundation Trustee Lynda Petten. Also pictured are Don Gillis, Ann McKellar-Gillis, and Jerry and Sue Gzab. Breton Elks Lodge #402 also contributed \$2,000 toward the project.

Mayor Pam Hansen presents \$11,481.00 to Board Chair Russ Buit and Secretary-Treasurer Lynda Petten. Council members in attendance included Deputy Mayor Dale Grimsdale, Devin Davey, and Kristy Klinger.



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STAVELY ELKS



This month, the Stavelly Elks Lodge proudly conducted a full ritual initiation, continuing the important traditions that define our Order.

Taking the time to carry out a full initiation is a powerful statement—it shows a commitment to welcoming new members in a way that is meaningful, respectful, and rooted in the values of Elkdom.

These ceremonies are more than formalities. They are the foundation of connection, belonging, and shared purpose. By investing in this experience, the Stavelly Lodge is helping to ensure that new members truly understand what it means to be part of the Elks.

Congratulations to the Stavelly Elks for honouring tradition while continuing to build for the future.

CARSTAIRS ELKS

CARSTAIRS ELKS WELCOME 28 NEW MEMBERS !



A remarkable milestone was celebrated this month as the Carstairs Elks Lodge conducted a full ritual initiation, welcoming an incredible 28 new members into the Order.

This achievement speaks volumes about the strength, energy, and commitment of the Carstairs Lodge.

Choosing to carry out the full initiation ceremony reflects not only respect for our traditions, but also a dedication to creating a meaningful and memorable experience for every new member.

Initiating 28 members at once is no small feat—it represents growth, momentum, and a Lodge that is clearly doing something right. More importantly, it reflects a community that is welcoming, engaged, and ready to invest in its future.

To the members of Carstairs Elks Lodge, congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment.

Your efforts are helping to strengthen Elkdom—one member, one experience, and one tradition at a time.