

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

May 2026



Brothers, Sisters and Ladies of the Royal Purple Elks,

As we look ahead to June, there's a different kind of energy building across Alberta.

Conference is just around the corner, and with it comes something we don't always pause long enough to recognize, the opportunity to come together, not just to meet, but to reconnect, to share, and to shape what comes next.

Across our Lodges, we are starting to see momentum. Conversations are happening. Ideas are being tested. Members are stepping forward, not because they have to—but because they want to be part of something that matters.

That's what makes this moment exciting. This year isn't about having all the answers. It's about building them.....together.

When we gather in June, it won't just be about reports and meetings. It will be about people. It will be about hearing what's working in communities across the Association, learning from one another, and finding new ways to strengthen the work we do every day.

There is real value in that kind of connection. Because when we take the time to listen, to share openly, and to support one another, we begin to see new possibilities, both for our Lodges and for the Association as a whole.

"Together We Can" is more than a theme. It's a reminder that none of us are doing this work alone. Every Lodge, every member, every idea contributes to something bigger.

And as we come together at Conference, we have the chance to build on that, bringing forward our experiences, our challenges, and our successes, and using them to move forward with greater clarity and confidence.

There is something powerful about being in a room with people who care about the same things you do.

That's what June represents. A chance to reconnect with our purpose. A chance to strengthen our relationships. And a chance to continue building a future that reflects the best of who we are.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Because truly—Together We Can.

Sister Terry Read
Provincial President
Alberta Elks Association

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

EARLY BIRD DRAW – MARCH 12, 2026

1st. Early Bird Winner

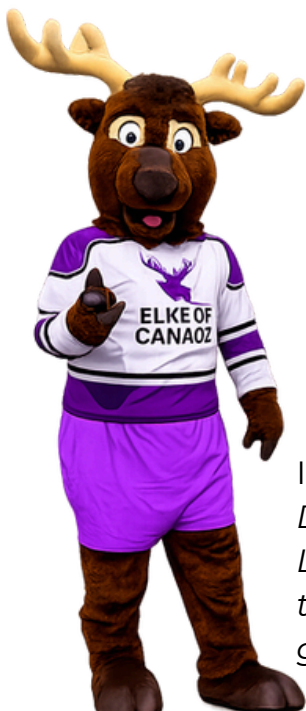
Mike P.
Strathmore, Alberta
\$750 Cash – Ticket #62062
Sold by – Strathmore Elks #491

2nd. Early Bird Winner

Keith M.
High River, AB
\$750 Cash – Ticket #77710
Sold By – Stavely RPE #99

3rd. Early Bird Winner

Miko B.
Lac La Biche, AB
\$750 Cash – Ticket #37067
Sold by – Lac La Biche Elks #470



It's official - we want to invite you to join us at ISTAR's 2026 Family Fun Day which will be held on Sunday, June 7th from 1-4 pm at Corbett Hall Lawn in Edmonton Alberta. Tickets are \$5 each - reserve your spot now to enjoy all the activities including outdoor inflatable activities and games, cookie decorating, face painting, cake, contests and more!

THE BRETON BOOSTER

THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR COMMUNITY: A STORY OF RECOVERY AND GRATITUDE

by Alan Baines Lecturing Knight, Breton Elks 402 Lodge,
April 19 2026

To the Editor and my Fellow Community Members,

I recently read the article regarding the "volunteer gap" in our communities, and it hit close to home. I want to share my story to show exactly why these volunteer clubs are the heartbeat of Breton and why we cannot afford to lose them.

Four years ago, I was in a very dark place. I had traveled to Claresholm for treatment, looking to start a new life. Things didn't go as planned; I was unfairly accused of breaking a rule and asked to leave. I found myself hitchhiking back to Breton with no money and no place to stay. My job at Arctic Spas was on an extended shutdown, and I was in a "jam" I didn't know how to get out of.

I was staying in the showers at the RV park just to keep out of the rain when a member of the Breton Elks found me. They didn't turn their backs. Instead, they got me a room at Big Tee's for a night, then took me to Drayton to buy a tent so I had a place to live. The Breton Food Bank made sure I didn't go hungry.

Because of those volunteers, by the end of that August, I had my daughters back with me and we found a home. We started attending the Faith Covenant Church, where we eventually got baptized. Today, I am proud to be a member of that church and a member of the Elks for four years—earning my five-year pin next year at age 58.

Volunteering keeps me grounded. It reminds me to slow down and keep God in my life. But it also brings me to a serious concern.

The Breton Elks celebrated our 70th anniversary this year. It is a milestone to be proud of, but we are at a

crossroads. Our oldest member is 93 years young; many others have 50 or 55-year pins. We have some incredible dedicated members, but there are only about 25 of us total.

I am putting out a challenge to Breton and the surrounding areas: In five years, we will hit our 75th anniversary. I want that to be a massive celebration with 300 members, not a funeral for a lodge that ran out of help.

The secret is this: you don't always have to be at every meeting. We know life is busy. We are simply asking you to help keep the community strong by joining and helping when you can. Without the Elks, the Food Bank, the Church volunteers, and the Firefighters, there is no safety net. There is no community.

To all the volunteers who helped me when I had nothing: Thank you. My family and I are here today because of you. To everyone else: please stop the excuses. Join a club. Keep our heartbeat going.



ALSO FEATURED INSIDE THIS ISSUE!
Kids Colouring Contest Page
Gardening Tips
And More....!

MEET OUR ESQUIRE



Name: Brother Jordie Bronson
Position: Provincial Executive Member
Home Lodge: Stavely Elks Lodge
Years of Membership: 4 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I didn't grow up in the Elks, but I've lived in a small town my whole life where you learn to look out for your neighbours and pitch in when something needs to get done. Joining the Elks felt like a natural fit with the values I've always lived by.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: The people and the shared sense of purpose. I've seen firsthand the same small-town spirit in our Lodges, and that connection to community is what keeps me engaged.

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

A: Being part of something that brings people together and strengthens communities. I'm passionate about helping grow our membership so we can continue building on that impact for the future.

Q: Community involvement outside the Elks?

A: I'm actively involved in my community through sport, including coaching local teams and supporting community activities. I believe strongly in the role sport and shared experiences play in bringing people together.

MEET OUR FOUNDATION TRUSTEE



Name: SHRL Lady Sharon McLean
Position: ISTAR Rep / Trustee
Home Lodge: Stavely Royal Purple #99
Years of Membership: 60 years

Q: Why did you join the Elks?

A: I grew up in a family deeply connected to the Elks and Royal Purple, and volunteering has always been part of my life.

Q: What has kept you involved over the years?

A: The friendships and sense of belonging—it truly feels like a family.

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

A: Being there to help others whenever and wherever it is needed.





LET'S SHAKE IT UP ! WALK FOR CHILDREN—YOUR WAY !!

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

May is Hearing and Speech Month—a cause proudly supported by the Elks of Canada through the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children. It's a time to raise awareness, show our impact, and come together in support of children and families across our communities.

This year, the Walk for Children is all about flexibility, creativity, and community.

There's no set date and no set format—your Lodge gets to decide:

- 👉 What kind of event you run
- 👉 When you run it
- 👉 How you engage your community

You can still use Grand Lodge pledge forms (donations over \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt), but how you raise those funds is completely up to you.

Make It Fun. Make It Visible.

Think beyond the traditional walk:

- 🎉 Community fun night
- 🎬 Outdoor movie night
- 🛍️ Pop-up market or garage sale
- 🏆 Trivia or scavenger hunt
- 🤝 Partner with a local school or group

This is your chance to open your doors, bring people in, and show who we are. Every event helps support the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children while building awareness and connection in your community.

Share Your Impact!!

- 📷 Take photos
- ✉️ Send them to the Alberta Elks Newsletter
- 📊 Let US know how much you raised

LET'S GET CREATIVE, GET VISIBLE, AND HAVE SOME FUN DOING IT- TOGETHER !

Brother Vern Thuroo

1st Vice-President/President Elect
Alberta Elks Association



elksocalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

HEISLER ELKS



On April 25, the Heisler Elks hosted their annual Pork Chop & Ribs Dinner and Dance, welcoming nearly 300 guests for an evening of great food and community spirit.

In true Elks fashion, the team had everyone served within just 65 minutes—a testament to the organization, teamwork, and dedication behind the scenes.



The evening also highlighted the Elks' ongoing commitment to their community. Exalted Ruler Mac Weller presented a generous donation of \$50,000 to the Heisler Ag Society, along with an additional \$10,000 to the Heisler Seniors Complex.



Adding to the night's celebrations, Fire Chief Shawn Badry recognized Heisler Elks Secretary Rob Dingreville for 20 years of dedicated volunteer service with the Heisler Fire Department, presenting him with a plaque and pin in appreciation of his long-standing commitment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELKS CRUISE POKER RUN

STARTING IN PONOKA, THROUGH BEARBERY, SUNDRE AND WINDING UP IN RED DEER!

JUNE 27TH 2026
ALL BIKES AND CLASSIC CARS WELCOME!

PRIZES FOR BEST AND WORST HANDS

- \$30 REGISTRATION PER RIDER/DRIVER INCLUDES 1 HAND
- \$15 PER PASSENGER
- \$10 PER HAND, NO LIMIT
- \$5 RAFFLE TICKETS
- BREAKFAST INCLUDED
- LUNCH AND SUPPER PROVIDED ALONG THE WAY!

EMAIL: CRUISE@ELKS85.CA
PHONE: 587-587-6172

PONOKA ELKS HALL
3901 AHS-2A, PONOKA, AB
BREAKFAST STARTS AT 9:30 AM
KICKSTANDS UP AT 11 AM

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

SAVE THE DATE!

ISTAR's 40th Anniversary Dinner

OCTOBER 03, 2026
at the University of Alberta Faculty Club

Support ISTAR & Celebrate 40 Years!

Purchase a "STAR" for only \$2.00 to be displayed in our lobby waiting room!

Follow this link to purchase a star:
<https://ourplace.alberta.ca/products/40th-anniversary-star-for-display>

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 Pettitt
Casino Chair
lyndapettitt@gmail.com

WETASKIWIN ELKS



The members of Wetaskiwin Elks Lodge #91 presented a donation of \$500 to Sacred Heart Church's Feed The Hungry Project, an initiative focused on preparing dry food packages for distribution within the community. This meaningful project aims to raise \$12,000 to assemble 30,000 meal packages, with ongoing fundraising efforts and volunteer opportunities available for those wishing to lend a hand. Representing the project at the cheque presentation were Mr. William Lariviere and Mr. Fernando Sulit, who accepted the donation on behalf of the initiative.



In addition to supporting food security efforts, the Lodge also contributed \$500 to the Wetaskiwin Swim Club and \$500 to the Wetaskiwin Ball Club. These donations help ensure that local youth have continued access to recreational programming, skill development, and opportunities to stay active and connected. Members of both clubs, including youth participants, were present to receive the cheques—highlighting the direct impact these contributions have on young people in the community.



Wetaskiwin Elks Lodge #91 is a volunteer-driven organization open to all, dedicated to meeting the evolving needs of the community. Throughout its long and proud history, the Lodge has contributed over \$500,000 in financial support, along with countless volunteer hours, to a wide range of local causes.

BRETON ELKS



Exalted Ruler Anne and members Don and Jerry presented a cheque to Bentley Senior's Housing.

BOW ISLAND ELKS



The Bow Island Elks donated \$10000 in funds from their annual supper and auction to support the FCSS Meals on Wheels program.

OKOTOKS ELKS



The Okotoks Elks are leading the way with one of the Association's growing Junior Elks programs.

Recently featured at a local trade show, the Lodge invited attendees to stop by, grab a prize, and meet Theo—a young member helping represent the next generation of Elks.

With strong early success, the program is already making an impact and building connections within the community.

HEISLER ELKS



Pictured above, Heisler Elks member John Lundy (right) presents a \$300 cheque to Lois Lang of the Big Knife Villa Residents Club, supporting the ongoing operating costs of the handi-van.

FORT MACLEOD ELKS



The Fort Macleod Elks Lodge #129 marked an incredible milestone on April 11, 2026, celebrating 100 years of service with a sold-out centennial gala at the Fort Macleod and District Community Hall.

The evening brought together members, community supporters, and special guests for a night that reflected both the Lodge's history and its lasting impact. Guests enjoyed dinner and lively dueling piano entertainment by 176 Keys, creating an atmosphere of celebration and connection.

A highlight of the evening was the formal recognition of the Lodge's century of service. Provincial President Terry Read, alongside Grand Lodge Member Gordon Moon, presented a commemorative plaque and certificate to Exalted Ruler Hank Van Hierden.

The celebration also featured a thoughtfully curated display of Elks memorabilia and historical fashions, offering a glimpse into the Lodge's rich history and the generations who have contributed to its success.

More than just a celebration, the evening was a powerful reminder of what 100 years of service, fellowship, and community commitment can build—and a look ahead to the continued impact of the Lodge for years to come.



STAVELY ELKS



Exalted Ruler Tim Nelson presents a \$1,000 cheque to Lena Krahulic of the Nanton Children's Society in support of the 17th Annual Nanton Children's Festival, taking place August 3, 2026.

The Stavely Elks Lodge has also continued its strong support of local initiatives through recent donations. On the left, Brittany and Aria McNeil are pictured with Exalted Ruler Tim Nelson, accepting a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the Claresholm Kraken Swim Club.

Tiffany O'Neil accepts a \$3,000 contribution for KidSport Claresholm.

RED DEER ELKS



The Red Deer Elks Lodge recently welcomed staff from the palliative oncology unit for a team-building event, providing a space for connection and support outside of their demanding work.

When asked to share a few words about what they do, one team member offered this reflection:

"We care for people at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives. Our focus is on comfort, compassion, and honoring each patient's wishes—ensuring they can live their final days with dignity. We strive to treat every person holistically, supporting not just physical needs, but emotional and spiritual well-being as well. It is a true privilege to be trusted by patients and families during such a deeply meaningful time."

The Lodge was honoured to host such a dedicated group, whose work reflects the very spirit of care and compassion within the community.

STAVELY ELKS PARKS PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL

CLEAR LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

JUNE 19-20-21

FRIDAY OPEN MIC • SATURDAY MUSIC WORKSHOPS
VENDOR MARKET • ALL-DAY CONCESSION

TOM PHILIPS AND THE DTS
MAGNOLIA BUCKSKIN • 9TH AVENUE ALL-STARS
LYNDSAY BUTLER • CADENCE CREEK • COWBOY POETRY

SUNDAY JAM AND FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE STAVELY ODDFELLOWS

FULL WEEKEND PASS • \$50

CAMPING \$20/NIGHT • KIDS UNDER 12 FREE • COVERED SEATING • RAIN OR SHINE

TICKETS AND CAMPING AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE
SCAN QR CODE BELOW

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT STAVELYELKSPARKS@GMAIL.COM,
CALL 403-625-6239, OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT STAVELY ELKS PARKS

Foundation for the Arts

ELKS

2026 National Convention

Discover the story of Gander.

Join Elks from across Canada for the 2026 National Convention in a town known around the world for its aviation history, breathtaking scenery, and legendary Newfoundland hospitality.

Elks of Canada