

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

June 2026



President's Message

Brothers, Sisters and Ladies of the Royal Purple Elks,

As I begin my year as your Provincial President, I am both honoured and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. My theme, "Volunteering is Rewarding," reflects something I have experienced throughout my years in the Elks. The greatest rewards often come not from what we receive, but from what we give—our time, our talents, and our commitment to serving others.

This year, we have several exciting initiatives underway that will help strengthen our Association and position us for future growth.

One of the most significant projects is our partnership with Corus Media. Through television, radio, and digital advertising, we will be sharing the story of the Alberta Elks with communities across the province. For many years, we have quietly made a difference in our communities. Now, we have an opportunity to showcase the incredible work being done by our lodges and invite others to become part of our organization.

Our recent conference in Hanna also demonstrated the value of bringing new ideas and perspectives to our members. The addition of guest speakers provided fresh insights, encouraged meaningful conversations, and helped us explore new ways to strengthen our lodges and better serve our communities. I look forward to continuing this approach at future conferences and events.

Leadership development will also be a key focus this year. Strong lodges require strong leaders, and leadership is something that can be learned, developed, and supported. We will continue to explore opportunities for leadership training and development throughout the province, helping members build the skills and confidence needed to serve effectively at both the Lodge and Association levels.

Finally, I would like to recognize the important work of our Communications Committee. Through our website, newsletters, social media, and other communication channels, the committee plays a vital role in sharing our story and keeping members informed. Their efforts help connect our lodges, celebrate successes, and ensure that the good work being done across the Association is seen and appreciated.

As we move forward together, I encourage each member to remain engaged, support one another, and continue building welcoming lodges where members can thrive. The future of our Association is bright, and I look forward to working alongside all of you during the coming year.

Thank you for everything you do in support of your lodges, your communities, and the Alberta Elks.

Fraternally,

Brother Vern Thuroo
Provincial President
Alberta Elks Association
2026-2027



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PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE FALL 2026

SEPTEMBER

Sept 8-Elks Point Elks Lodge #460 8:00 PM
Sept 15-Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge #399 7:00 PM
Sept 21-Crossfield Elks Lodge #416 8:00 PM

OCTOBER

Oct 5- Stettler Elks Lodge #92 7:30 PM
Oct 6-Halkirk Elks Lodge #361 7:30 PM
Oct 19-Chauvin Elks Lodge # 261 8:00 PM
Oct 21- Medicine Hat Elks Lodge # 412 7:00 PM
Oct 24-Castor Elks Lodge # 138 5:00 PM 100th Anniversary

NOVEMBER

Nov 2-Red Deer Elks Lode # 85 7:30 PM
Nov 12-Ponoka Elks Lodge # 561 7:00 PM
Nov 16-Breton Royal Purple Elks Lodge # 285 7:30 PM
Nov 17-Breton Elks Lodge # 402 7:30 PM
Nov 18-Gwendale Elks Lodge # 579 8:00 PM
Nov 23-Delia Elks Lodge # 489 7:00 PM

DECEMBER

Dec 3- Trochu Elks Lodge # 168 8:00 PM
Dec 7- Heisler ElksLodge # 325 8:00 PM

BRETON ELKS & ROYAL PURPLE ELKS



Members of the Breton Elks and Breton Royal Purple Elks celebrated their 70th year in 2026 with supper out and good fellowship.



**Lodge Affiliation Fees are
now PAST DUE for the
Alberta Elks Association and
the Grand Lodge of the Elks
of Canada!!!**

**Has your lodge submitted all
reports and fees???**



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Meet Your Provincial Executive



Vern Thuroo



Lynn Williams



Matthew Koenraadt



Jordie Bronson



Garry Schau



Dave Carlson



Terry Read



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THANK YOU!



Past Provincial President Sister Terry would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Brother Gordon Moon, from the Stavely Elks Lodge, for stepping up this spring to support the Executive in the role of 3rd Vice President of the Association for the Albert Elks Provincial Conference held this past June in Hanna.

Your willingness to serve, lend your time, and support the work of the Association has been deeply appreciated. Stepping into a leadership role when needed speaks to your commitment, dedication, and belief in the future of the Elks.

On behalf of the Executive, thank you for answering the call and helping carry the work forward.

We look forward to watching you continue your journey and adventures toward the station of the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks of Canada. We know you will represent the Order with pride, integrity, and the true spirit of Elkdome.



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A Message from the Membership Committee

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Ladies of the Royal Purple,

For those I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Jordie Bronson, and I am proud to serve as your Provincial Association Lecturing Knight.

Following our successful conference in Hanna earlier this month, I would like to thank Brother Vern for his hospitality and hard work in hosting such a wonderful event. Congratulations on your election as President. I know the Association is in good hands, and we look forward to your leadership in the coming year.

I am also pleased to share an exciting development approved by our membership. After a year of planning, collaboration, and hard work, I am proud to announce that we have partnered with Corus Media on a year-long advertising campaign.

Beginning this fall, our message will be shared across Alberta through television and radio advertising. Working alongside Corus production specialists, we are ensuring that the story of the Alberta Elks is told in a meaningful and engaging way. It is time for us to move beyond being Alberta's best-kept secret and proudly showcase the impact we make in our communities every day.

As these campaigns generate interest in our organization, it is important that our lodges are prepared to welcome new faces. I encourage every member to help create an inviting and inclusive environment where prospective members can connect, contribute, and find a true sense of belonging.

To further support the growth and success of our lodges, PP Sister Meghan has developed a new training platform designed to help Lodge executives succeed in their roles. By providing our leaders with practical tools and resources, we can strengthen member retention, develop future leaders, and build a sustainable pipeline of members ready to serve on committees and in Association leadership positions.

Thank you to everyone who supported these initiatives in Hanna. The groundwork has been laid, the website is live, and the next chapter of our Association's growth is underway. Please keep an eye out for our advertising campaign this fall and be ready to welcome the new members it will bring through our doors.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Jordie Bronson
Lecturing Knight, Alberta Elks Association



A very special 50 year pin was presented to Past Grande Exalted Ruler Brother Bill Ward



Brother Myles Wasik was presented with his 50 year pin



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VEGREVILLE ELKS



Members of the Vegreville Elks Lodge #143 made a donation to the Vegreville Long Term Care Patients Comfort Care Society that enabled the Society to purchase a much needed Tilting Wheel Chair and a Pressure Guard Mattress. The medical equipment will make daily tasks much more comfortable for the residents that have mobility issues.

Bro. Steve Kuchik, seated on the left in the front row, is a long term care resident and has been an Elks member for 54 years. Steve was very appreciative to see the Elks Lodge continue their support by purchasing medical equipment for the long term care residents.

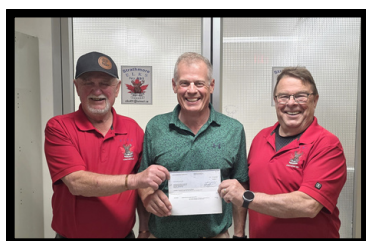
ELK POINT ELKS



Congratulations to the recipients of the Elk Point Elks Lodge #460 Scholarsips and Awards. Thank you Mrs. Kathy Berlinguette, our newest Elks Member for making the presentations.

The Steve Kuziw Memorial Award went to Duanne Rivera, the Elmer Bjornstad Scholarsip to Robyn Urquhart and our Elks Family Scholarship to Adasyn Havener. Again, congratulations and the best to all of you in your future endeavors.

STRATHMORE ELKS



Bros. Gus Cammer and Tony Giasson presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Greg Helfrich with the Strathmore Curling Club for ice sponsorship and a contribution towards the purchase of reusable paint-free ice sheets.

The Strathmore lodge also presented a cheque for \$2,400 to Rina Hempel with the Strive Program in Strathmore supporting adults with neurodiverse abilities.

VULCAN ELKS



The Vulcan Elks continue to make a positive impact in their community through their generous support of local initiatives.

This season, the Vulcan Golf and Country Club thanked the Elks for sponsoring its Junior Golf Program, helping local youth learn the game, build confidence, and create lasting friendships.

The Elks were also recognized for their contribution to the community garden, a popular project that brings people together, promotes food security, and strengthens community connections.

Community organizations expressed their appreciation for the Vulcan Elks' ongoing generosity and commitment to making a difference in the lives of local residents.



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BROOKS ELKS



REDI would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to the good folks from the Brooks Elks Lodge for their generous donation of \$1000, which will help send some amazing Brooks and area people to summer camp.

This is a highlight of the year for many of the people that REDI supports, and any chance we can get to reduce financial barriers to access to camp is very much appreciated.

FERNIE ELKS



On behalf of Fernie Elks Lodge #81, we extend our sincere thanks to the Alberta Elks Foundation for its generous support of the local Ghost Rider Children's Summer Camp.

Pictured are two presentations made in support of the camp, including a donation through the Fernie Elks Lodge and a matching grant provided by the Alberta Elks Foundation. Together, these contributions help ensure local children have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable summer camp experience..

HEISLER ELKS



Heisler Elks Secretary Rob Dingreville presented a cheque for \$750.00 to the Edmonton Ride For Dads Prostate research and cure fund raiser. Approximately 500 motorcycles took part in the ride.



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BRETON ELKS



The Breton Elks #402 have been active both in their community and within the Association this spring.

On Good Friday, members joined the Breton and Area FCSS Easter Egg Hunt, where children and volunteers alike enjoyed a fun-filled day. The event was supported by the Breton Agricultural Society, Breton Youth Centre, ATB Financial staff, and the Breton Elks.

The Lodge also demonstrated its commitment to community support by presenting a donation cheque to the Rimbey Hospital and Care Centre.



Most recently, members of the Breton Elks and Royal Purple Elks attended the 98th Annual Alberta Elks Conference in Hanna.

Following the business sessions, members enjoyed reconnecting with fellow Elks from across the province and celebrating the fellowship that makes our organization so special.



SLAVE LAKE ELKS



Slave Lake Elks is donating back into our community. Thank you to Eunice and Deegan for accepting the donation for the Children's Resource Council.

The Slave Lake Elks made donation to the students at C.J. Schurter Elementary school to help cover costs for their field trip, as well as the gymnastics club.

Slave Lake Soccer Association participants accept this donation from the Slave Lake Elks #37



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