

DECEMBER 2022

ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

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

It is that time of year again when we come together to embrace the magic of the holidays. While I believe our Lodges work hard all year long for the betterment of their respected communities, we always seem to shine a little brighter during the Christmas season. Lodges are working on filling hampers for their local Food Banks, sponsoring families to make their holidays merrier, collecting toys for all the children and so much more. I am so lucky and fortunate to be able to get a front row seat to see all these projects come together as I travel across the Association to the Lodges and experience first-hand the measures you all take to change lives right at home in your communities.

Five years ago, the Alberta Elks Communication Committee started the Alberta Elks Association Toy Drive. The goal of the toy drive was to get Lodges to host events and collect toys and donations for the recreation department of both the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, and the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton. Our first year Lodges gave overwhelming support to the cause and rallied to gather toys, books and financial donations to support the project. During the 2020 pandemic we took a different approach to the Toy Drive and in honor of the Alberta Children's Hospitals 100th Birthday we collected funds to supply the hospital with Audio Books, focusing on providing both the devices and the audio book files to children in hospital. When we committed to support the Audio Book project at the 2022 conference in June, we set a goal of \$5,000.00 to get started and as the holidays approach I am very pleased to announce that we are almost there! We even might be able to exceed this goal and provide them with even more book files and tablets for even more children to enjoy!

I have seen and witnessed great things throughout my travels, but no one person does it alone. We are better together. TOGETHER WE CAN keep supporting communities, hosting projects, and ultimately increase our membership. TOGETHER WE CAN!

Thank you to all that volunteer Nationally, Provincially, and locally to the order. On behalf of the Alberta Elks Executive and from my family to yours I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous Happy New Years. Rest, Celebrate and I look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year!

Provincial President
Sister Kelly Sanford
Brooks Elks Lodge #77



3 Cheers for Sexsmith



As another year comes to a close, let us reflect on the challenges of recent years and be grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with friends and family over this Christmas Season

Sister Barb Evans
Immediate Past President



Sexsmith Lodge 284 donated 280 Charlie stuffed toys to the Grande Prairie hospital foundation, to be given to children visiting the hospital when sick. this past Tuesday at our regular meeting

GER Leonard Shain Visits Acme



Shown in picture Left to right Acme Seniors President Brother Doug Barnard, Hounored Royal Lady Carole Metzger and GER Brother Leonard Shain presenting \$1000 from Acme Royal Purple Elk's and \$1000 from the Alberta ELKS Foundation for Community Enhancement Fund for Parks and Playgrounds.

STAVELY ELKS LODGE #112 SENIOR MEMBERS NIGHT



Long Service Award pins were presented to the following members at the Staveley Elks #112 Senior Members night after a delicious supper served by Staveley Royal Purple Elks Lodge #99

Front Row: Allan Jones (25yrs), Lyndon Johnson (40yrs), Jim Richards (55yrs), Bruce Alsgard (40yrs), Doug Broomfield (50yrs).

Back Row: Blaine Hoffarth (25yrs), Brian Nelson (50yrs), Roy Hall (45yrs), Bernie Johnson (50yrs).

Not available were: Bryan Crowe, Kenneth Lengyel and Steven Marshall all with 45 years. Randi Cofield, Ken Magwood and Daryl Olir with 50 years and Gordon Carlson with 55 years of service.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since June the Foundation has been busy working on different projects and shipping the Float and Charlie around the province.

The Mighty Lil Elks pilot project is under way with the help of our President Kelly Sanford. We should be distributing bags to regional hospitals in Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat before Christmas.

Exciting news Taber school wants to do a school project and collect tabs for the Tabs for Tots program, the Tabs video and poster were provided to them.

We encourage your Lodge to look around your community – contact your local recreation board, your schools, your regional hospitals, etc. to see if there is a project, no matter the size, that you can perhaps take on and apply for these projects, it's a great way to get our name out there. Also thank you for your donations and keep them coming!

On behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation, we send Season Greetings to everyone and Happy New Year for 2023.



Cheers,
Bill Ward
Chair, Alberta Elks Foundation

DID YOU
KNOW?

What is a “General Grant”

DID YOU
KNOW?

This is a grant for general purposes – Playground equipment, community facility upgrade, etc. Note that AGLC have made changes to their rules and Elks and Royal Purple Elks facilities qualify for this grant. The grant, to a maximum of \$2,000, can be approved by the Trustees throughout the year. Any request over that amount up to \$5,000 will need to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Complete the “General Grant” application form (found on the Alberta Elks Association website). Even if your Lodge does not have matching funds, let us know why. The Board has the authority to consider extenuating circumstances regarding grant regulations. Once approved, the funds will be issued to the recipient or the company supplying the goods or services.

Be sure to read and follow the instructions and, as always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the Foundation Office at 780-504-7605 or any Trustee.

Watch each month for a shortened explanation of each grant we offer – we want you to be familiar with the grants and have your dollars work efficiently!!

We are looking for a Raffle Chairperson Are You Interested?

An individual must be appointed who will oversee all matters relating to the physical control and monitoring of raffle tickets issued and returned and cash related thereto. This individual should be separate from the Secretary-Treasurer to ensure segregation of duties within the charity. This person is referred to as the “Raffle Chairperson” and makes and maintains records as per the Alberta AGLC regulations.

The Raffle Chairperson must be very familiar with the rules and regulations set down by the AGLC and follow these explicitly. The following is a brief description of the responsibilities of the Raffle Chairperson used as an introduction to the position.

1. Activate bank account for new raffle.
2. Obtain start up funds of \$10,000 from the Foundation and deposit to new bank account.
3. Application to AGLC to conduct a raffle.
4. Printing of tickets and posters once the raffle has been approved.
5. Distribution of tickets, posters, and information packages to lodges.
6. Report of financials and progress to be given to the Foundation Board monthly.
7. Acquisition of prizes once there are enough funds to cover cost.
8. As per above, you are responsible for all funds coming and going from the bank account.
9. You are responsible for the tracking of all tickets until the raffle is completed.
10. After each draw, contact winner and arrange for delivery of prize via the lodge who sold the winning ticket.
11. After final draws calculate lodge commissions and issue cheques.
12. Issue final cheque for net proceeds of the raffle to the Foundation prior to October 31, after all other cheques have cleared the account.
13. December you will receive a package from AGLC, requesting the final reporting of funds. Must be completed immediately.

Join
Our
Team



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Acme Royal Purple Elks



Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard Shain official visit to Acme Royal Purple Elk's shown all in attendance

As we each celebrate with our families during this Christmas season, let us remember to share in some small way our joy to those less fortunate
Sister Lynda Petten
Provincial Secretary



Red Deer Christmas Giving



\$1000 dollars each was donated to the Red Deer Food Bank and the Red Deer Christmas bureau by Red Deer Elks Exalted Ruler Brother Colin Tettersell and Secretary Brother Nick Henger

WINNER WINNER...



Wetaskiwin Elks #91 were the lucky sellers of the second prize winning ticket for \$10,000.000 for The Alberta Elks Provincial Foundation Raffle for Summer 2022. Mr. Andrews was presented with his cheque at the last meeting. From L-R: Eldon Dumkee - Elks President, Ed Andrews - Winner and Henry Effon - Elks Secretary.

Stavely Elks #112 - Annual Pheasant Derby



The Stavely Elks were ecstatic to host their 16th annual Pheasant Derby November 18th and 19th. The hunt was halted for 2 years due to covid but returned with great success this year to host 35 teams comprised of 293 hunters and dog handlers including 34 Elks members and our GER Brother Leonard Shain who released the first pheasant of the day.

Teams come from across western Canada came to participate in the event. The Elks are fortunate to have the support of many of the local businesses, over 60 landowners, community groups and help of over 100 volunteers to run this event. The Lodge with help from the Royal Purple Elks provides supper Friday evening with a pancake breakfast the day of the hunt. The hunters are out all day in all manner of weather but are welcomed back on Saturday evening to a fantastic prime rib supper supplied by the Elks. The Lodge has a raffle, 50/50 draw, sell merchandise, and award the hunters prizes, no one goes away empty handed. The Stavely Elks raise approximately \$40,000 per year with this event, and it is one of our most anticipated fundraisers for the Lodge.

This year, Stavely Exalted Ruler Brother Brian Nelson presented GER Brother Leonard Shain with a \$5000 cheque for the Elks of Canada Fund for Children. The rest of the money raised will be used to support local programs including the Alberta Elks Foundation, KidsSport, local hospital needs, and any other worthy cause brought before the lodge.



Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal



Sister Maggie Gervais of the McLennan Royal Purple Elks was awarded Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal September 27, 2022 in Edmonton Alberta. She has been with the Royal Purple Elks since 1987. In addition to her work with the Royal Purple Elks she also volunteers with NAR Historical & Railway Museum Society, Kimiwan Life & Wildlife Preservation Society, Leisure & Recreational Society, Ladies Auxiliary Manoir Du Lac (senior lodge), Meals on Wheels, Lakeview Pioneer Society, In the Woods Animal Rescue and now is serving on the McLennan Town council. Congratulations Maggie, well deserved!

Food Bank Receives Donation



Brother Sean Duthie of Strathmore Elks Lodge presenting a donation cheque for \$1,500 to Dixie Hartell, and Lynette Aschenbrenner with the Wheatland County Food Bank

Edmonton Elks Give



Last week Edmonton #11 gave their yearly contribution cheques out to 5 amazing organizations that support the local community. 4 of the organizations were able to be there in person and all shared a bit about their Community and the people they serve. Recipients included Camp Hehoha, The Salvation Army, Edmonton Crossroads Community, and the Edmonton Food Bank.

Charlie's 1st Christmas Parade

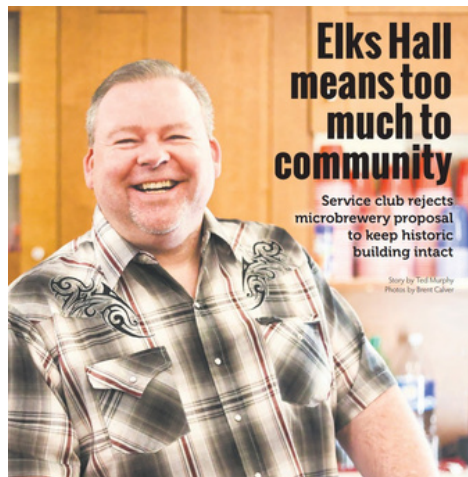


Charlie made one more last visit before the cold sets in. He was spotted in Fort Saskatchewan November 28th at the local Santa Claus Parade.

The Alberta Elks Foundation float was in fine form and there were tons of smiles and shouts from the streets along the route!

If your Lodge is looking to book the Float and Charlie make sure to get your requests in early to the Foundation office!





Elks Hall means too much to community

Service club rejects microbrewery proposal to keep historic building intact

Story by Ted Murphy
Photos by Brent Calver

FIVE YEARS SHY of its 100th anniversary, the Elks Community Hall continues to be an Okotoks landmark, a place where generation after generation has gathered for everything from harvest balls to wedding receptions to worship services.

There was some uncertainty, however, whether it would carry on as the town hub as its namesake service club, which also dates back 95 years, entertained a character-altering proposition for the historic structure earlier this year.

"We had an opportunity a couple of months ago," explains Okotoks Elks Club secretary Jayson Hughes. "A brewery approached us and said, 'Hey listen, we would love to lease the main hall from you to put in our own microbrewery.' They wanted that location because 58 Elizabeth Street is the best location in town."

Hughes says the club wasn't in good financial shape at the time, so members weighed the pros and cons of the proposal, which would have seen the microbrewery take the lion's share of the building at the corner of aptly named Elk Avenue, leaving only a fraction for community use.

After righting the ship in terms of finances by eliminating a lot of its overhead, the club was no longer desperate for a lifeline, but that wasn't necessarily the deciding factor when members voted unanimously in October to reject the offer.

Instead, they couldn't bear the thought of converting a building that has meant so much to so many people into something other than the community focal point it's been for almost a century.

"We could make a pretty good clip every month by leasing it to the microbrewery, and maybe we could change it back after the lease expired, but that meant we were going to miss out on the weddings, the celebrations of life, the wrestling, the rock bands; we were going to miss out on all that and that's what brings us together," says Hughes.

"We are the town hub, we are the place people have been coming to since 1927. It hit us over the head pretty hard and made us aware. It came down to the fact we just knew how important it is to the community. If we did sell out to that brewery, what would it mean for the memories of all the people? Hearing about how our hall has joined people together over the years from all those special moments, we knew we had to keep the hall the way it is."

Saying the club made the right decision, Hughes adds members were not only worried about losing that connection to the past but had reservations about displacing regular tenants, everyone from Girl Guides and the 4-H Club to CanAm wrestling matches and a Sunday church group. ▶



The Elks Community Hall has been a community hub since it opened in 1927, serving as a place for everything from weddings and funerals to craft fairs and wrestling matches. CanAm Wrestling moved to the hall earlier this year.

"This building, other than maybe the police or fire station, is probably the most important place in town. If we took that deal, it (the building) would look cool, but I think it would be more along the lines that we just lost a pretty awesome space that everybody can use whenever they want, they can rent it out whenever they want," he says.

With the future of the hall secure, a milestone on the horizon and their finances in better shape, the Elks are now hoping to bolster their ranks as well as the fortunes of three other service clubs — Legion, Lions and Kinsmen — that call Elks Community Hall home.

Hughes says all the clubs are struggling membership-wise with an ever-aging base, limiting the amount of good they can do in the community and beyond, a situation that can only be rectified by an injection of new blood.

"Our club is 48 strong but really there's a core group of about 10 that keep things going," he says. "It's the same with Lions, Kinsmen, Legion; it's the same guys that get things done. Without them, things wouldn't get done."

The raison d'être for all service clubs is similar: raise money in order to plow it back into worthwhile causes. The Elks generate cash through the hall in a variety of ways, from rentals to hosting Monday night Bingo and Thursday night sports, where drinks are always a bargain at just \$5, as well as through outside ventures such as casino nights, beer gardens, chili cook-off and more.

Undertaking these initiatives requires manpower, which can sometimes be in short supply or limit what projects the club is able to take on. Hughes says core members often volunteer two nights a week on top of special events, a situation that can lead to burnout if the workload isn't distributed among more bodies.

"What we want is to get some young blood in, some enthusiasm to help out, to facilitate different initiatives," Hughes says. "I see these dwindling numbers and I'm worried about the clubs."

He's proud of what the Elks have been able to accomplish, pointing to the awarding of scholarships to local high school students and financial support for children impacted by recent house fires in Okotoks as two recent examples of charitable outreach.

The current challenge for the service club, which has found a niche in helping those with hearing loss and auditory issues, is to raise money for a service dog for Colin Brown, a four-year-old boy who suffers from a lengthy list of health conditions that require round-the-clock care.

The club has spearheaded a campaign to raise \$25,000 by early next year, tasking Elks chapters elsewhere in the district and other organizations in the community to jump on board to help the youngster gain some independence through a service dog.

"What I'm hoping is that we're going to crush that \$25,000 and go to \$30,000 or \$35,000, and if we have more, we'll assist this family in any way we can," says Hughes.

Colin's family tried training their own puppy to become a service dog, although they saw some progress, it ultimately didn't work out, but recognizing it's a necessary next step to improve the little boy's day-to-day life.

"We know a service dog for Colin isn't a want, it's a need for his best quality of life," says his mom, Krista Brown. "We've seen already with the short time with Jovie what even a partly trained dog could do for him. It was changing his life. (It was) helping him connect with people and his world, helping with his sensory processing, he was engaged more, he started to babble."

Hughes, who is passionate about helping those in the community where he grew up and has lived for decades, likes the fact that money raised by the club goes back to assist neighbours in need.

"Here's a prime example of how money is directly injected into this family to help this boy. I think if people knew that this is what we're doing, then a lot more people would say this is an awesome cause, put my name down for whatever you guys need (volunteer-wise)."

Hughes is hopeful now the club is on firmer footing that it can build its volunteer base, which would allow it to do more good in the community. He says people don't have to become members of the Elks Club in order to volunteer, adding that anyone 16 and up is welcome.

The club's secretary says manpower is needed to take part in special events as well as pitching in, which includes everything from bartending to clean up, to facilitate the ongoing activities at the hall.

"I want to let people know that it's not just some old stodgy group," he says. "The only chance we can keep doing this is by having new members, new volunteers."

Hughes knows even though service clubs have a rich history in these parts: they're facing an uncertain future without an infusion of new blood. As much as he worries about the clubs, he's equally concerned about those who turn to service organizations for support.

"When everything else is exhausted, when your government grants are exhausted, savings, this is where the local clubs come into play and it's really a last lifeline for some folks. It would be a real shame if they weren't around anymore."

Hughes is optimistic about the Elks' future and is already formulating plans for a centennial celebration, including reaching out to as many people as possible who have had a connection to the hall over the years.

"Okotoks still has that community feel, and part of that is because 58 Elizabeth Street is still there," he says. "And it's not just the building, it's what we do inside." ■



Okotoks Elks Club member Krystof Lindenback volunteers as a bartender during an event at the Elks Community Hall.



The Okotoks Elks Club has spearheaded a campaign to raise \$25,000 by early next year to provide a service dog to four-year-old Colin Brown, shown with his mom Krista Brown and aide Peyton Amundson during a fundraiser at the Elks Community Hall in October.

Welcome to the Elks



Grand Exalted Ruler, Leonard Shain visited Staveloy Royal Purple Elks Lodge #99 on November 9 and initiated seven new members



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President Visits Stavely



Provincial President Sister Kelly attended her official visit to the Stavely Elks Lodge. The lodge was getting ready to welcome hunters to their lodge for their upcoming Pheasant Hunt Derby. Stavely is also looking forward to hosting the National Curling March 23-25, watch for future information on this you don't wanna miss it!

Did you know the Stavely Elks has contributed a total of \$825,049.00 over the last 22 years. The members have contributed a total of 92,873 hours

Great Job Barrhead



The Alberta Health Services Child & Youth Health Team in Barrhead recently celebrated a \$3,000 donation from the Barrhead Elks Club toward a childhood development program for families in the community.

Shown from left are Calvin Fischer of the Barrhead Elks Club and members of the Child & Youth Health Team; Tracey Mueller, speech assistant, and Melody Ulmer, Infant & Child Development coordinator, with sample materials provided as part of the program



Didsbury Hosts GER



Such fun at the Didsbury Elks meeting! The Carstairs Elks Lodge stopped by the Didsbury meeting to visit and hear what's happening at the Grand Lodge level; A great evening at the Didsbury Elk's Lodge, supper prepared by Didsbury Lodge. Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard Shain and a great meeting conducted by Didsbury.

Halkirk Gives



Halkirk Elks donated \$5000 to a number of Community initiatives and organizations

During the meeting, Elks donated nearly \$5,000 to organizations varying from those located in Paintearth County to the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children national charity.

Close to home, Castor and District Family and Community Support Services received \$200, Paintearth Community Adult Learning and Castor Food Bank each received \$250, the Stettler Hospice Society received \$500 and Circle Square Ranch each received \$1,000." STARS Air Ambulance received \$225 from Halkirk Elks, and the Elks national charity received \$1,200.

The Halkirk Elks host many fundraisers through year including the recently held comedy night and the always popular Bullarama during the summer



NEW Member Alert!



The Carstairs Elks #556 is celebrating this month! The Carstairs ELK's would like to welcome three new members, brother Greg, sisters Jan and Michelle. Welcome to The Elks!

Congratulations



A huge welcome to the 2 newest members of the Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge!

Last night the Lodge Membership Director PP Brother Larry Zeisman installed Brandi and Randy as members of Fort Saskatchewan. Welcome to you both!

Strathmore Elks



Strathmore Elks has been in the spirit of giving this month. Brothers Bill Jones and Steve Rafuse presented a \$1,500 donation cheque to Charles Redeker with the Veterans Food Bank on behalf of the lodge. Charles is the grandson of Charles Edward Redeker, the first Grand Exalted Ruler of the Grand Lodge of Canada

Brother Tony Giasson and Exalted Ruler Greg Whiteley presented a donation cheque to Mardi Oel with the Chestermere Food Bank.

Brother Tony Giasson also presented a donation of \$1,500 to Christine McIvor, CEO & Founder of the Kids Cancer Care Society

Brother Mike Ramsay presenting a donation cheque for \$1,500 to Barb and Jordy Praeker with the Hope Bridges Society of Strathmore. Great Job Strathmore Elks!



Provincial President Kelly Sanford met up with Elks Royalty during her official visit to Stavelly.

It was a picture opportunity that could not be passed up featuring PGER Brother Duane Romuld, PSHRL Sister Sharon McLean, PGER Brother Duane Felt

With sadness we share with you the following



"It is the hour of eleven when all Elks cease from their labours and again renew within their hearts their obligations to each other with special regard to our absent and departed Members"



Brother Larry Anderson
January 3, 1938

~

October 28, 2022
Sexsmith Lodge # 284



Brother Robert Hurst Jr.
August 6, 1953

~

November 23, 2022
Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge



Brother Don Campbell
May 21, 1929

~

November 27, 2022
Hardisty Elks Lodge



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