

Minutes of Lodge Meeting – Thursday, 14th August 2025

- The general meeting of the Perth Elks Lodge # 362 was held on Thursday, 14th Aug at 6:00 pm with ER Alan Young presiding.
- Opening ceremony was conducted. Two seats were empty this evening. Burpee Wagner filled in for Paul Kinney, and Les Smith for Anthony Davidson. Alan Young welcomed everyone and acknowledged those in attendance.
- Alan asked if there were any omissions or corrections of the Minutes from 10th July 2025. There being none, Jim Hatheway MOVED and Jamie Dooling SECONDED the motion to accept with this amendment. MOTION CARRIED.
- Treasurers Report – Gary Grant stated that our Scotia Bank account is healthy with all monthly bills paid. A MOTION TO ACCEPT the treasurer's report was made by Gary Grant. SECONDED by Cecil Pirie. MOTION CARRIED.
- Committee Reports
 - Finance

Al McPhail reported the budget was completed and would be reviewed at the upcoming Financial Committee Meeting. The budget would be presented at the Executive Meeting in Sep for approval. Al stated that the Lodge had a great FY 24/25, meeting out targets, and retained a surplus.
 - Membership
 - I. Al McPhail reviewed the mandate as approved in June, as well as the Vision and Mission Statements and the four strategic goals. In line with the strategic goals, the Committee is recommending removing the images of the former Exalted Rulers and Royal Purples, digitizing these as well as all pertinent documents (i.e. Charter) for safe keeping and display in an electronic format. A list of Exalted Rulers and deceased members will also be collected, stowed and displayed electronically. These actions are being addressed to modernize the facility. Much of our funds originate from rental of the hall, and display of the historic images is continuously being questioned by potential renters. As the community expands and we have more renters not associated with the Lodge we must adjust with the times. We are not discarding our history, just relocating it as we modernize the Lodge to entice new, younger members as well as business.

Al McPhail MOVED and Les Smith SECONDED THE MOTION to remove the Exalted Ruler and Royal Purple images and stow them in an electronic format. MOTION CARRIED. Janet Gee donated a small electronic picture frame for this purpose. Investigation into a larger one will be conducted. The electronic version will be available to display on the website as well as on the lounge TVs during Lodge functions.
 - II. Al introduced two Notices of Motions on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee. These important motions represent a significant departure from historic Lodge practices so it is

appropriate that advance Notice of Motions be given so all members have the time to consider them and attend the September 11 Lodge meeting where they will be presented and voted upon.

- These are:
 - a. abandon the use of honorific titles of the Executive in favour of corporate titles, and
 - b. discontinue the use of all ritual and ceremony to streamline meetings and initiation ceremonies.

Notice of these motions shall be sent immediately to all members electronically, or hard copy to those without an e-mail address. The correspondence shall explain the motions, seek input on the subjects, and invite as many members as possible to attend the Sep meeting in preparation for the vote on these motions. It was advised that Ron Gaunce release a special newsletter on the subject.

Ron Gaunce questioned whether these changes would affect dress (wearing of Elks clothing)? These changes, permitted in the National by-laws, will have no impact on the operation of the Lodge and our status within the community as a nonprofit charitable organization.

- Membership
 1. Janet Gee discussed the requirement to draft a new brochure with up-to-date information. This new brochure would include our history of donations to the community \$131,000 to date, the membership application and rental policy, as well as contact information. Brochures shall be made available and handed out at all Lodge and community events where the Elks are present. The Committee is looking into merchandise and swag for future sale which will advertise the Perth Elks commitment to the community. The Committee has purchased 15 bib aprons for the kitchen staff and hired Louise Allie to make 4 server aprons with embroidering an elks head on all. These will provide uniformity and identity of Elks members when cooking and serving meals.
- Management
 - I. Building: Jamie Dooling stated that once the budget has been approved by the Exec the procurement of 25 chairs will proceed
 - II. Bar: Janet Gee has volunteered as door person for the upcoming wedding – 17 Aug. Ron Gaunce stated there has been some confusion over payment for events. He stressed a requirement for tighter procedures and better communication regarding events. He requested that a hard copy of event invoices be retained at the bar for ease of acquiring payment for renters. The Scheduler, David Oliver, will be directed to provide a hard copy of event invoice for filing and immediate access at the bar.
- Entertainment
 1. Alan Young reported the washer toss tournament scheduled to 6th Sept. requires volunteers to BBQ during the event. A call for volunteers will go out.
 2. The golf tournament which had been tentatively scheduled at Plaster Rock. Golf Club for 13th Sep has been cancelled due to a lack of organization time, in favour of early spring 2026.
- Charities
 1. Gary Grant reported the amount that had been donated to date for the FY 25/26.
- Wellness – Diane Hatheway reported that the following was sent to members:

1. Janet Gee – Sympathy Card on the loss of her son, Stephen,
2. Garth Dingee – Sympathy Card on the loss of his brother, Gary,
3. Joe McPhail – Get Well and gift card on his surgery, and
4. Bob Lafrance – Get Well Card on his hospital admittance. A Thinking of You card and gift card will be sent to him as well.

- New or Unfinished Business

- a. Ron Dube, Provincial ER reported on his attendance at the National Conference. Kari Senko was announced as the National Grand Exalted Ruler for 2025 / 26. The 2026 National Conference will be held in Gander, NFLD, 14 – 16 July 2026. All are encouraged to attend.
- b. THE Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children Booklet, which talks about the Elks in the community and highlights our charitable donations, is currently available to all Lodges. The National Office recommends providing copies to community and high school libraries and other community business, such as doctor and dentist offices where people are seeking reading material while waiting for appointments.
- c. As the Grand Lodge develops a Marketing Blast, Lodge members are encouraged to submit images of New Brunswick and the Perth-Andover area for submission to the National Office. The purpose of the marketing blast is to increase membership.

- Correspondence

Jed Lockyer received one thank you card from the Larlee Creek Hullabaloo Committee for our continued support.

- Good of the Order

- I. A call for volunteers to make sandwiches for the Sept Meeting was made. Volunteers will be reminded before the meeting.
- II. Jed Lockyer reported on the raffle of a maple cutting board during the Bryson reunion brought in \$270 for the Make a Difference Foodbank.
- III. A call for volunteers for the fall Hotel Dieu Appreciation Day dinner, 18 Sep, was conducted and the meeting adjourned 6:50 pm.

NOTE: Confirm next Lodge Meeting – Thursday, 11th Sep, 2025

Fraternally yours.



Jed Lockyer