



EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

NEWSLETTER

Issue #9 - October 2025

Santa's Mailbag

Hello Everyone,

Thank You for Making the 42nd Annual Edmonton Toy Run a Success. On behalf of the organizing team, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Edmonton Toy Run such a memorable and successful event.

To our sponsors, thank you for standing behind the Edmonton Toy Run and providing the resources that made the day possible. Because of the great sponsors, we have been able to remain a zero-registration fee ride. We encourage new unwrapped toys and cash donations, and when you bring a gift, we will give you a gift in return, plus lunch is on us. Truly the only ride of its kind in the country. We are proud to remain an event that focuses on the cause, while welcoming everyone. Two wheels, three wheels, four wheels, all are welcome.

The Edmonton Toy Run is about the community, and one of the last rides of the year. To the participants, your generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Edmonton Toy Run remind us why this ride has been a cherished tradition for over four decades.

To our volunteers, the planning committee, HOG 9003, Grom Gaggle, your time, energy, and dedication behind the scenes are the reason everything runs smoothly. We couldn't do it without you.

And to the entire motorcycle community, congratulations on another incredible riding season. The funds you've raised for the Edmonton Toy Run and the support you've shown for so many other worthy causes this year is truly inspiring. Your impact stretches far beyond the open road.

Together, we've not only celebrated the joy of riding, but also made a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in our community. Your contributions to the Edmonton Toy Run ensure the holiday season is brighter for those who need it most.

Thank you for riding with purpose, for giving with heart, and for keeping the spirit of the Edmonton Toy Run alive.

I am very proud of what we accomplished together, and I look forward to building on this success in the future.

Watch for upcoming events on our website including the Motorcycle Show, BCDC Concert, Poker Run, Bike Nights and possibly a few more surprises.

Thank you and always remember to enjoy the ride!

Jay Padilla

Planning Committee Chair

www.edmontontoyrun.org



Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run



November 5th, 2025 - Join us out at Six Pak Saloon for their Annual Bonfire Night. Edmonton Toy Run will be serving up hot dogs and/or hamburgers. Feel free to bring a toy that will stay in the Fort Saskatchewan area.

April 11, 2026 - BC/DC Fundraiser @ Blackjacks

August 15, 2026 - 3rd Annual Poker Rally

September 20, 2026 - 43rd Annual Toy Run

Check out our web page for even more events!

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/event-calendar>

Featured Rider(s)/Business

Meet Gail, Official Photographer of the Edmonton Toy Run



Gail brings over a decade of professional photography experience to the Edmonton Toy Run, capturing the heart and soul of our community's most beloved holiday tradition. With an eye for heartfelt moments and a talent for candid storytelling, she ensures every rider's generosity and joy are immortalized in vibrant, meaningful images. Gail's photographs don't just record an event—they tell a story of compassion in motion. We're proud to have her talent behind the lens, transforming fleeting moments into lasting memories that inspire Edmontonians year after year.

Can you tell us about the moment you first picked up a camera at a motorcycle event and how that spark led you to become the official photographer for the Edmonton Toy Run?

Being involved in the bike culture made me aware of the toy run. Being an avid photographer gave me the opportunity to take pictures of the people that I knew and people that were going to become friends eventually.

What is it about the Edmonton Toy Run's blend of motorcycles and charity that inspires your work, and how does that purpose shape the way you compose your shots?

The Edmonton toy run is something that I look forward to every year. Back in the '80s my son was about 5 years old, and I volunteered him and I to drop off toys at houses. We had our last drop off at 7:00 p.m. when we knocked on the door of this old house. A woman opened the door, and two children stood behind her. There was barely any furniture in their living room. I will always remember the huge smiles on their faces when we gave them the huge bag of toys. The mother had tears in her eyes as she thanked us. The door closed, and we heard the children squealing. My son and I got back in the truck, and he thanked me for taking him along. It was the best night ever. This is part of the reason why I love being a part of the Edmonton Toy Run. I also love being at the event and seeing that there are many different bikes, and no two are the same. Taking those shots of the bikes at different angles is something that I crave. I love what I do.

Describe a single photograph from a past Toy Run or motorcycle event that has stuck with you—what were you seeing, feeling, and trying to capture in that instant?

It's amazing to see the long line of bikes with toys on the backseat of every bike. It's such a thrill to see them as they go by. To know that some child will be gifted these toys on Christmas Day. It warms my heart.

How do you scout the best vantage points during the chaos of engines revving and crowds gathering to ensure you're always in the right place at the right time?

Before the day of the event, I go and scout out my spot that is going to show off all the bikes as they come into the parking lot. It's always about offsetting the bike and its riders and passengers. I love seeing them wave as they ride past me.



In moments when the weather, light, or timing don't cooperate, how do you adapt your creative process to still deliver impactful images?

Through sunny, rainy, or cloudy days, I always do my best to push it. It's about the editing factor and what to keep and what to discard. With the toy run, I want to post it all. ..I wish..hahaha.

Your positive energy is infectious—how do you maintain that upbeat spirit all day and translate it into your photographs?

You have mentioned my positive energy. I love what I do, and it is something that I look forward to. The people that I meet on the Toy Run are very friendly and always greet me with a smile.

Can you walk us through your gear bag on event day? What cameras, lenses, or accessories can't you ever leave home without?

As for my equipment that I carry on the ride day, is just my Canon camera and my long lens. It does the work!



As someone deeply linked to the riding community's charity work, how do you see your photographs helping to grow awareness and support for the Edmonton Toy Run's mission?

Through my Facebook page, I support Edmonton biking events. The Edmonton Toy Run has always been a part of my heart, and showcasing the many images of every rider is important.

What advice would you give to an aspiring photographer who wants to capture the soul of a live charity event but isn't sure where to start?

My advice to up-and-coming photographers for any type of bike event is just to get out there and to take pictures of the people who support our upcoming events. I have made many friends through the years with my camera.

Looking ahead, what are you most excited to photograph at future Edmonton Toy Runs, and how do you envision your role evolving as the event grows?

How do I envision the future? All I know is that I want to be a continuing part of the Edmonton toy run. I love the people. I love all the bikes. I love the smiles. What more could a person ask for?

Every month, we try to feature a rider or business within the community. Do you know of an individual, either in the biking or car world, or a business you would like to see featured? Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter? Send an email to:

Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Last Month's Event Recap:

We held our final bike Night At Blackjacks Roadhouse on September 16th with a great turnout. Thank you to all those who came out and supported us at all our bike nights throughout the summer.

September also brought the 42nd annual Edmonton Toy Run. It was great to see all the 2, 3, and 4 wheels out. Yes, we even had some classic Cars join us this year!

Bursary

Did you know the Edmonton Toy Run has a bursary that is available for anyone who is applying for post-secondary education?

Applications are now being accepted. Click on the link below for more information and to access the 2026 Bursary Package.

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/bursary-1>

Sponsorship

Every year, our sponsors play a big part in what we do by donating to a great cause.

If you would like to become a sponsor or know of a business or individual that would like to become a sponsor, please let us know by sending an email to Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com



Get your 2026 Membership through the website @
<https://edmontontoyrun.org/memberships>

Dad Joke:

TYPES OF BIKES...AND WHAT THEY COMMUNICATE



Volunteers Needed!

The Edmonton Toy Run is always in need of volunteers to help with our events. We would welcome your help at one or all of our events.

Events That Need Help 🧑

Bike Nights

The next night is September 16th
Help is needed with setup/tear down
Directing parking
Tent and building monitors
(basically to remind people not to exit the tent/building with alcohol)
50/50 sales

Poker Rally

Next Event August 15th, 2026
Help is needed with setup/tear down
Food prep and/or service
50/50 sales
Registration Desk
Check point monitor

Main Event – Annual Toy Run September 21st, 2025

Signage set-up and/or take down.
Set-up is the night before the event, and take-down is directly after the event.
Set up/tear down at the starting point (Blackjacks Roadhouse)
Set up/tear down at endpoint (Edmonton Inn and Convention Centre)
Directing Parking
50/50 sales
Toy collection

Annual YEG Motorbike Show

Set up and/or tear down the booth

Booth coverage (minimum three-hour shift)

BC/DC Concert at Blackjacks Roadhouse

Door coverage
Set up/tear down silent auction
50/50 tickets

We also need people to help with:

Deliver/pick up toy collection boxes
Sponsorship – we need people to help obtain event sponsorship
Promotion – can you help with PR

We can be reached at:

Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com



2025 Committee Members:

Jay Padilla, Hazel Gillis, Heather Gillis, Nevin Kublik, Landon Kublik, Gabe Barrington-Moss, Nik Hewlett, Denise Chenier, Daphne Dowbush, David Dowbush, Freya Giroux, Danielle Rowland-Dow, Terrence Rowland-Dow, Madison Paterson, Amanda Thiessen, Darren Thiessen

Contact Information:

Edmonton Toy Run: edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Links to Edmonton Toy Run:

