



# EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

## NEWSLETTER

Issue #7 - August 2025

### Santa's Mailbag

#### **Motorcycle Road Trip Essentials:** *What to Pack for a Weekend Getaway or an Extended Adventure*

A motorcycle road trip offers freedom, adventure, and the thrill of the open road, but it also demands smart planning and efficient packing. Whether you're heading out for a weekend escape or a multi-day cross-country ride, having the right gear can mean the difference between a legendary journey and a logistical nightmare.

I recently went on a 5-day motorcycle trip, and for the first time in 35 years, I left my rain gear at home. Well, that was a mistake.

God opened the heavens and rained down on me like it was 40 days and 40 nights, and I should have boarded Noah's Ark!! Having my rain gear would have made all the difference. I would suggest that when preparing for a road trip, you bring your rain gear, no matter what. I sure will!

**Here's a list of motorcycle road trip essentials** (*Regardless of the length of your ride, some items should always make the cut.*):

- Rain gear!!!! Of course, the usual safety gear includes a helmet, a favorite armored or leather jacket, and pants or chaps. Gloves- regular everyday ones and waterproof or insulated, depending on the weather.
- Riding Boots, runners, and flip flops are a must. Nothing better than freeing the toes after a long day trapped in a boot.
- Hi-vis vest or reflective elements for night riding, eye protection, sunglasses, clear lenses, and a neck gaiter.
- Tool kits, mini air compressor, mini booster pack, zip ties, duct tape, and bungee cords, or bungee net. Flashlight, mini-LED are the best. First Aid Kit, dry cloth or travel towel, a multitool if you have one, and a few zip lock bags. Super handy to have. Don't forget a spare key- hide it in a safe place. Earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones. Wind noise fatigue is real. Don't forget a phone charger!!!
- If your bike has built-in Navigation and Communication, awesome; if not, use your phone and get a GPS and smartphone mount.

- For clothing, it is about packing light while staying prepared. Prioritize multi-purpose items and remember to roll your clothing; it packs tighter and reduces wrinkles. Moisture-wicking shirts, including long sleeves, jeans or riding pants, underwear, and socks. Shorts and a swimsuit (for hotel pools or hot springs) and a lightweight hoodie or pullover. Extra layers for cold weather, such as thermal base and fleece.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, some sort of wet wipes and hand sanitizer, bug spray, and my favourite, sunscreen!!!
- Always a good idea to have some cash with you just in case debit or credit machines are down. Make sure to bring a water bottle or refillable container and a few snacks. Energy bars, beef jerky, or trail mix always work well.

\*Pack these in saddlebags or a tail bag for easy access and balanced weight. Remember to distribute weight evenly. Low and balanced packing helps bike handling.

\*Don't be afraid to test your load and adjust the suspension accordingly. Do a short ride with your packed gear to adjust comfort and balance. Use waterproof dry bags or panniers to organize your items by category. Clothes, tools, food, etc.

These are just a few of the items you should bring and consider. I know there are others, pick your favourites, and if you are camping...that is a different article altogether.

Remember, a well-packed motorcycle road trip is all about preparation and versatility. Pack lean, plan smart, and you'll be ready to tackle whatever the road throws your way. Whether you're cruising for a weekend or exploring for weeks, the right gear ensures your trip stays safe, smooth, and unforgettable.

Ready to ride? Don't forget a bank or credit card and your rain gear!!!! Safe travels and enjoy the ride!

**Jay Padilla**  
**Planning Committee Chair**  
[www.edmontontoyrun.org](http://www.edmontontoyrun.org)

## Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run



**August 16th** - 2nd Annual Poker Run at Six Pak Saloon. Join us for a day/evening of fun with our new route and exciting biker games. Try to pull the best poker hand, get your 50/50 tickets, bid on Silent auction items and enjoy some smoked brisket on a bun or hot dogs!

**August 19th** - Co-Host Bike Night @ Blackjacks with OBB

**September 16th** - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

**September 21st** - 42nd Annual Edmonton Toy Run.

**Check out our web page for even more events!**

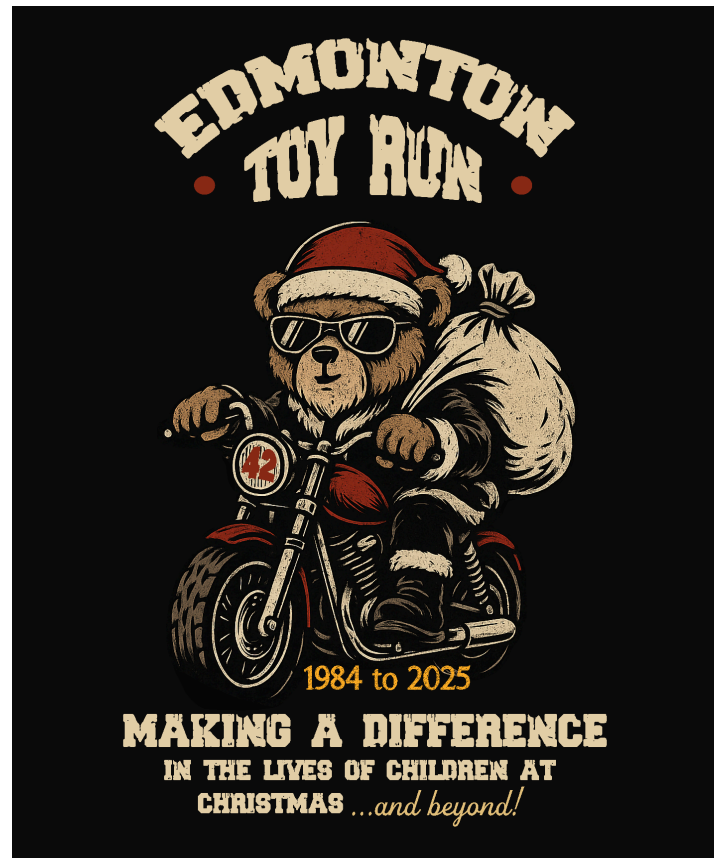
<https://edmontontoyrun.org/event-calendar->



Edmonton Toy Run now has back patches! They are \$75 for the complete set and can be purchased through our website:

[www.edmontontoyrun.org](http://www.edmontontoyrun.org)

## PRE-SALES are now open for 2025 T-SHIRTS and HOODIES



Each year, the Edmonton Toy Run offers a limited edition t-shirt and hoodie for sale. The proceeds from the sale of our clothing go towards ensuring children in the Edmonton Area experience the joy of Christmas.

Pre-sales will close August 30th, 2025. Merchandise will be available for pickup at the Toy Run on September 21st at Blackjacks Roadhouse or the Edmonton Inn.

If you are unable to attend the event, we will contact you after the 21st to arrange for pickup.

There will be a limited number of t-shirts available for purchase at the event. If we do not have your size at the event, you will be able to place an order, but these must be paid for at the time of purchase, and you will be contacted when they are available for pickup (approximately 3 weeks).

T-shirt - \$30.00

Long Sleeved T-shirt - \$40.00

Hoodies (pullover and zip-up) \$60.00

Purchase from our website [www.edmontontoyrun.org](http://www.edmontontoyrun.org)

## **Featured Rider(s)/Business**

### **Edmonton Toy Run Spotlight: Deb from Six Pak Saloon**



**Deb, can you tell us about the inspiration behind opening your property, Six Pak Saloon, to the motorcycle community?**

*After the build, I realized it was too nice not to share with others. So, we had a party in the fall of 2018. All 23 showed up by word of mouth, lol, which then grew by word of mouth to all thousands of us today. I feel word of mouth is the best way to grow. I don't advertise, I only have FB pages. Nor push myself on others if they come, they come, they won't be turned away. There is a saying build it, they will come, lol, and lord, have they come lol*

**What does the name "Six Pak" represent, and how did it come to be the heart of this gathering place for riders?**

*The name Six Pak came from 6 of us riders who would always ride together, and I would always ask Is Six Pak riding today. When the saloon got built, it needed a name, and it stuck. It also reminds me of John Wayne, who had a six-shooter (who my dad looked like. It was one of the first things I hung in the saloon along with the Six Pak Saloon sign.*



**Creating a safe and welcoming space is so important—what does that look like at Six Pak, and how do you foster that environment?**

*As for being/feeling safe, I feel it's the outside country atmosphere you pull in on the grass & sit under the trees with an old farm house from the 1800s, and being from Newfoundland & we're known for our welcoming nature.*

**You've supported countless charity events—what motivates you to give back through the motorcycle community?**

*I'm in a position where I'm able to help, so how can I not? I look at it as being nice and kind, it's not that hard, hey.*

**The Edmonton Toy Run is close to many hearts. What does the Toy Run mean to you personally, and why do you continue to support it?**

*Edmonton Toy Run? That's an easy one, "Children & Christmas" and Christmas being my favorite holiday of the year.*

**How have you seen the motorcycle community grow or evolve over the years, especially when it comes to inclusion and support?**

*I've seen it grow by word of mouth,*

*with more & more reaching out to hold fundraisers here, it's actually great to see and very humbling that they want to come.*

**Supporting small local businesses is something you're passionate about. Can you share some of your favorite local partners or vendors you've collaborated with?**

*Again, it comes to how can I not, if I have the means and space to help, I don't believe in charging different charities or vendors as they are here to raise funds or money, not to spend it. As for favorites, I don't have any, I don't believe in favoring you're all equal to me.*

**What has been one of the most memorable events or gatherings hosted at Six Pak, and what made it special?**

*Summer of 2021, when everything opened up after Covid, the July rally had to be over 500 people who came through the yard that weekend. It was quite something to see- nearly gave me a heart attack lol*



**How do you balance running events, supporting causes, and creating space for riders while still finding time for yourself?**

*Being retired helps lol, but then again, this is more work! lol. I could not do it without my family & volunteers! I am very thankful for them. As for finding time for myself? What's that! Again, it comes to the volunteers, I can come*



and go as I like if needed. The riding season is only so long. So, I get late fall, winter and early spring to myself.

**What advice would you give to other women looking to carve out their own space or voice within the motorcycle community?**

*Don't be about the money. Mind your business, don't engage in gossip. Momma always said if you have nothing good to say don't say anything at all lol. It's in the hospitality: make people feel welcomed, comfortable, help them if needed and feed people as there is always a cup of snacks at the Pak. Be kind- it's not that hard.*

**If you could describe the spirit of Six Pak in just a few words, what would they be?**

*Easy one. Six Pak Saloon where friends become family.*



**Looking ahead, what are your hopes or dreams for Six Pak and your continued role in supporting the motorcycle community?**

*Now that it has grown to what it is today. I would love to buy the property and turn it into a Campground and call it Six Pak Campground "Home of the Six Pak Saloon" I'd create paying jobs for my*

*volunteers & cater to the biker community with an old western town, main street down the center with an old church right at the end. John Wayne would approve!... And maybe one day have a Six Pak Saloon in Newfoundland!!*

*Deb: I would personally like to thank the biker community, different charities, and businesses for all their support and kindness they have shown me over the years. This has really kept me going 😊*

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](mailto:Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com)

### **Bursary**

Did you know the Edmonton Toy Run has a bursary available for those applying to any post-secondary education?

Applications are now being accepted. Click on the link below for more information and to access the 2025 Bursary Package.

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

**The application deadline is August 30th, 2025.**

### **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 us at [Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com](mailto:Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com)



### **Dad Joke**

Q - What do you get when you cross a Donkey with a Motorcycle?

A - A Yam-hee-haw!



Get your tickets for the **WestJet Gift of Flight** raffle in support of the Edmonton Toy Run.

Tickets are only \$20 each, and you could win

**ONE ROUND-TRIP FLIGHT FOR TWO GUESTS**

to any regularly scheduled and marketed WestJet destination.

Tickets are available at any of our events or through the website:

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/raffles>

AGLC licence #728222

Draw date: September 21st, 2025

**Where will your travels take you?**

## Volunteers Needed!

The Edmonton Toy Run is in need of volunteers to help out at some of our various events throughout the year.

If you would like to volunteer at any of our events, please let one of us know so that we can put you on a contact list. You can also send an email to [Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com](mailto:Edmontontoyrun@gmail.com)

### Contact Information:

Edmonton Toy Run: [edmontontoyrun@gmail.com](mailto:edmontontoyrun@gmail.com)

### Links to Edmonton Toy Run:

### Committee Members:

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



Get your 2025 Membership through the website @  
<https://edmontontoyrun.org/memberships>

## REBUS PUZZLES

**FACE**

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HAM**

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