



EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

NEWSLETTER

Issue #13 - June 2026

Santa's Mailbag

Hello Everyone!!!

As we move into the heart of the 2026 riding season, the motorcycle industry is experiencing one of its most significant transformations in decades. Here are two of the biggest trends dominating conversations among motorcycle enthusiasts, dealers, manufacturers, and industry insiders right now.

Technology with connected vehicle systems, and adventure travel, are reshaping what riders expect from their motorcycles.

Riders such as I who were once skeptical of electronic intervention are increasingly embracing these technologies as they improve safety without diminishing the riding experience. The motorcycle market continues to grow rapidly as manufacturers compete to offer smarter, safer motorcycles.

Connected motorcycles and smart technology have officially arrived. Riders increasingly expect smartphone integration, real time navigation, vehicle diagnostics, theft tracking, emergency crash notification, ride sharing, and social features.

Advanced Rider Assistance Systems are becoming mainstream. Radar based safety systems are no longer exclusive to flagship touring motorcycles. More manufacturers are integrating adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring, collision warnings, and cornering assistance into mid-range models.

If there's one segment that continues to outperform expectations, it's Adventure motorcycles. Adventure bikes now appeal to everyone from long distance tourers to weekend explorers. Manufacturers are introducing lighter, more accessible Adventure models while premium brands continue pushing larger displacement machines with sophisticated electronics and suspension systems. The growth is being fueled by riders seeking versatility, off-grid travel experiences, and multi-day adventures. The adventure category remains one of the strongest growth segments through the next decade.

Motorcycle travel and experience-based riding are what we all hope to do on motorcycles. Many motorcycle owners now view their bikes as passports to experiences

rather than simply transportation or weekend toys. Riders are increasingly spending more money on motorcycle experiences than anything else. Planning road trips, weekly rides, guided adventure tours, destination rides, and going to rallies and events.

The Edmonton Toy Run is excited to host a full series of events including bike nights at Blackjacks, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th and September 15th. Our Annual Poker Run is on August 15th, and of course, The 43rd Annual Edmonton Toy Run, Sunday September 20th. We can't wait to see you there.

Tickets are still available for our current raffle. The WestJet Gift of Flight is back! Win two tickets anywhere WestJet flies! Get your tickets at: www.edmontontoyrun.org.

We are always looking for volunteers for our year-round events. We are also looking for sponsorship opportunities and partnerships. If you can help with either, please reach out and let us know! Stay tuned for the next issue, a major announcement you won't want to miss.

Jay Padilla - Planning Committee Chair

www.edmontontoyrun.org

WESTJET

On sale April 12th, 2026

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>

AGLC licence #772472

Draw date: September 20th, 2025

Where will your travels take you?

2026 Committee Members:

Meet your 2026 committee members. Be sure to say hi when you see them.



Jay Padilla - *For more than 25 years, motorcycles have been more than a hobby. They are a way of life for me. I have spent decades connecting with fellow riders while supporting meaningful causes throughout Alberta.*

My love of the open road with a commitment to helping others has made me a strong advocate for charitable fundraising initiatives.

I participated in my first Edmonton Toy Run back in 2003. At that time, I was just a guy with a Childs toy strapped to my motorcycle going on another ride that supported a charity that gave these very toys to underprivileged kids. I quickly learned that this was a life changing event that did so much good for our community.

I have been part of the Edmonton Toy Run planning committee for almost 20 incredible years. Each riding season presents an opportunity to make a difference. Our mission is simple. Let's harness the strength and generosity of the motorcycle community to bring smiles to children and families during the holiday season. Over the years, countless toys, donations, and funds have been raised through the collective efforts of riders who share the belief that every child deserves a memorable Christmas.

Working with the current committee and having the mandate to raise more money, and more toys year after year is a challenge that we are all up for.

With a deep passion for motorcycle riding, community, giving back, and a lifelong love of motorcycles I will continue to inspire others to join the cause, proving that the motorcycle community is about much more than machines, it's about people helping people.



Hazel Gillis - *I have volunteered with Edmonton Toy Run for the past 19 years because I firmly believe that every child deserves to receive a gift at Christmas. Over the years, Edmonton Toy Run has become far more than a volunteer commitment to me—it has become a deeply meaningful cause. Serving on the committee for nearly*

two decades has provided me with valuable experience, fostered lasting relationships, and allowed me to witness the remarkable growth and success of our organization. It has been truly rewarding to see our annual ride continue to expand and to observe the positive impact we have on so many families each year. I am honored to be part of such a dedicated team and remain committed to supporting the ongoing success of Edmonton Toy Run as we continue to make a meaningful difference in our community for years to come.



Gabe Barrington-Moss - *I began volunteering with the Edmonton Toy Run in 2023 and quickly discovered how meaningful this community truly is. I'm especially passionate about helping the organization grow, including supporting efforts to establish a scholarship that will open doors for adolescents facing financial barriers as they pursue education beyond high school. Riding my Indian Scout has connected me with an incredible group of ETR riders who share a commitment to giving back and lifting up young people in our city.*



Denise Chenier - *I did my first Edmonton Toy Run in 2014, and it opened my eyes to the incredible impact it has on kids at Christmas. In 2023, I joined the committee, and since then I've been helping expand what we do so it's not just a once-a-year effort. Nik and I now play a major role in planning the annual Power Run in August, and it's been amazing to help shape something that brings the community together.*

Through volunteering in the biking community—and riding my Indian Scout and Scout Sixty—I've met so many amazing people who share the same passion for giving back and supporting others.

Nik Hewlett - *Executive member of the Edmonton Toy Run since 2023, I'm focused on advancing our mission to bring joy to children in need. This role has connected me with a diverse network of business leaders, professionals, and fellow charitable organizations, expanding our collective impact. I'm committed to forging meaningful partnerships and connecting with as many people as possible to support our organization and the broader charitable community.*



Heather Gillis - My name is Heather, and I have proudly volunteered with the Edmonton Toy Run for the past 16 years. What started as a fun family tradition—one that I could share with my husband, children, parents, and siblings—quickly became a passion. Being part of the

Edmonton Toy Run gives me the opportunity to help families during the holiday season and ensure parents have the means to keep the spirit of Christmas alive for their children. Knowing that our efforts help bring joy and create special memories for families is what inspires me to continue volunteering year after year.



Freya Giroux - Shieldmaiden spirit with a modern soul, riding my Indian Springfield towards new adventures wherever the road leads. Yoga teacher, dancer actress, and Viking reenactor with a passion for movement, creativity, and storytelling. Artistically driven

and living life loud, wild, inspired and fully authentic every step of the way.



Landon Kublik - I am from right here in Edmonton, completed my first ETR in 2003, and am very honored to be part of such a great team and organization. I ride a few different bikes but always stick to adventure and sport breeds. I believe toys help kids to dream,

develop and grow into the leaders of tomorrow, and the Edmonton Toy Run makes sure that every kid has a shot at that!



David & Daphne Dowbush - We are retired grandparents and great grandparents who enjoy camping, traveling and cooking. For years we have worked with children as scout and guide leaders, Ukrainian asst dance instructors, and in the church so it was a natural

fit to help with the toy run.



Ruby Benson - I grew up in Edmonton and joined the Edmonton Toy Run this year after hearing so many wonderful things about the community behind it. As a mom of two boys and a communications specialist focused on community engagement, giving back to

local kids and families feels especially meaningful to me. I've loved getting to know the incredible people involved and seeing the kindness, generosity, and sense of connection that makes the Edmonton Toy Run such a special part of our city.

Dad Joke:

Things to Ponder....

- 1) If the No.2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still No.2?
- 2) Why do we drive on the parkways and park on driveways?
- 3) Why do "fat chance" & "slim chance" mean the same?
- 4) Why do people say "heads up" when you should duck?
- 5) Why don't British people sound British when they sing?
- 6) Why are you "in" a movie and "on" TV?
- 7) Why are there no "B" batteries?
- 8) Why is a "pair" of underwear one item?
- 9) Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Reminder!!!!

2026 Memberships are now available!

Renewals are still only **\$15**

New Memberships are **\$25**

Available through the website:

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/memberships>

Contest

Find the mistake in the newsletter! Send an email to edmontontoyrun@gmail.com with the mistake you found. All those with correct answers will be entered in the draw to win a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card.

Congratulations to **Wesley Schultz**, the winner of the \$10 Tim Hortons gift card for finding the error in the April/May Newsletter.

Featured Rider(s)/Business

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:

On March 29th Kelly's pub hosted a meat draw with the proceeds of \$682.00 donated to the Edmonton Toy Run. We would like to thank Kelly's pub and all those that attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone at YEG Motorcycle Show April 9th-12th at the Expo Center.

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>

Deadline to apply is August 20th, 2026

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

JAMES H. BROWN
INJURY LAWYERS



Contact Information:

Edmonton Toy Run:

edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Links to Edmonton Toy Run:



Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run

June, 20 2026 - Coffee Meet-up @ Fifendekel(51 Ave)

June 23, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

July 28, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

August 15, 2026 - 3rd Annual Poker Rally

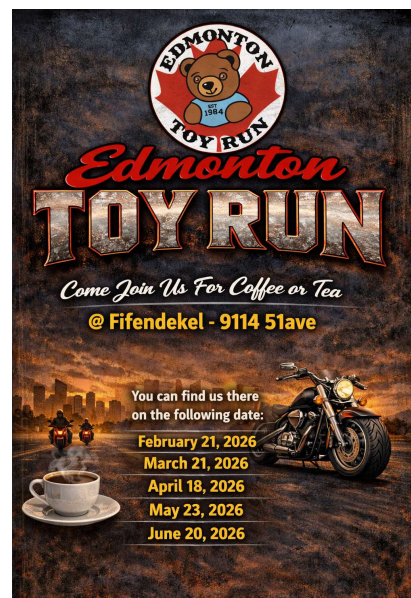
August 25, 2025 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 15, 2025 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 20, 2026 - 43rd Annual Toy Run

Check out our web page for even more events!

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



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 June 23rd
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 20th, 2026

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 - April 2027

Set up and/or tear down the booth

Booth coverage (minimum three-hour shift)

BC/DC Concert at Blackjacks Roadhouse June 2027

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

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Get Your 2026 Membership through the website @
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