



EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

NEWSLETTER

Issue #15 - August 2026

Santa's Mailbag

Last week, I had the opportunity to ride with 16 of the best riders I have ever had the privilege to share the road with. We promoted this ride as "The Ride of a Lifetime." We set out on two days of endless curves, with the mission to showcase riding in Canada to the new CEO of Indian Motorcycles, Mike Kennedy, and his wife, Nancy.

There are motorcycle rides, and then there are rides that stay with you forever, replaying in your mind long after you've parked the bike, removed your helmet, and unpacked your gear. This two-day journey through British Columbia wasn't simply a road trip; it was a masterclass in motorcycle touring, technical riding, and breathtaking scenery.

With nearly every type of road a rider could ask for, this route delivered thousands of perfectly linked corners, dramatic elevation changes, crystal-clear lakes, mountain passes, ferry crossings, and some of the finest pavement in Canada. It is, without question, one of the greatest motorcycle adventures you will ever experience.

The journey began in Kimberley, BC, and ended in Kelowna, BC. Marked by a symphony of corners where the crisp mountain air and towering peaks remind you that you're riding through one of Canada's most spectacular regions. The first stretch toward Creston eases you into the day with flowing sweepers that encourage a smooth rhythm before the road begins to tighten. I call this the warm-up.

Leaving Creston and heading north toward Kootenay Bay, Highway 3A transforms into a rider's dream. Every bend seems perfectly engineered for motorcycles. Long, sweeping corners transition into tighter technical sections that demand focus, precision, and confidence. Dense forests open to reveal stunning views of Kootenay Lake before disappearing again into towering cedar and pine.

The ferry crossing at Kootenay Bay offers a welcome break. Engines fall silent as riders take in the fresh air and the endless lake stretching toward the horizon. It's the perfect chance to reflect before another unforgettable stretch begins.

Once across the lake, the road toward Kaslo becomes even more addictive. Elevation changes come one after another as the pavement snakes around cliffs, climbs ridges, and dives toward the sparkling shoreline. Blind, decreasing-radius corners test your line selection while perfectly cambered sweepers reward smooth throttle control. Every mile demands your full attention.

The route from Kaslo to New Denver, 31A, may be one of British Columbia's best-kept secrets. Tight technical corners, rapid elevation gains, and constant direction changes make it feel like a purpose-built motorcycle road. The scenery somehow becomes even more dramatic, with waterfalls cascading down rock faces and mountain peaks rising thousands of feet overhead. A mandatory stop at Fish Lake is a picturesque spot you'll always remember.

Continuing on Hwy 6 from New Denver to Nakusp to Vernon, the riding becomes wonderfully rhythmic. Fast sweepers blend seamlessly into tighter sections, allowing experienced riders to find that magical flow where motorcycle and rider become one. It's the kind of road where every perfectly executed corner brings a smile inside your helmet.

The final push on Hwy 97 through Vernon and into Kelowna offers a change of scenery as mountain forests gradually give way to vineyards, orchards, and the warm beauty of the Okanagan Valley.

The ride from Kelowna back to Kimberley is another epic adventure.

The route heads southeast on Hwy 33 to 3, toward Christina Lake, where fast, flowing highways gradually tighten as the mountains return. The pavement rises and falls with the landscape, creating roller coaster elevation changes that keep riders fully engaged.

Continuing through Salmo, the terrain becomes increasingly technical once again. Every valley leads to another mountain climb, and every summit opens to another incredible descent. This section rewards patience, smooth braking, and deliberate throttle control as the road constantly challenges even experienced riders.

Staying on Hwy 3 to Salmo and returning to Creston feels like greeting an old friend before making one final memorable stop.

No ride through this area would be complete without rolling into Yahk for one of its legendary Two Scoop Steves ice creams. After hundreds of miles of demanding riding, there is something wonderfully simple about standing beside your motorcycle, enjoying an ice cream, and sharing stories with fellow riders. Sometimes the smallest traditions become the biggest memories.

The final ride back to Kimberley allows the experience to settle in. The mountains slowly fade behind you while memories of endless switchbacks, perfectly cambered corners, towering peaks, clear lakes, and unforgettable scenery remain fresh in your mind.

What makes this journey extraordinary isn't simply the distance; it's the incredible variety. Riders experience every style of pavement imaginable: flowing sweepers, tight technical switchbacks, dramatic elevation changes, mountain passes, lakeside highways, and peaceful ferry crossings.

Every section presents a new challenge. One moment, you're carving smooth high-speed corners with perfect sightlines, and the next, you're negotiating technical mountain roads

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requiring precise shifting and braking, careful body positioning, and flawless throttle control.

This is more than a motorcycle route; it's an experience that reminds us why we ride in the first place. It's about freedom, precision, exploration, and discovering roads that seem as though they were built exclusively for motorcycles.

If you've been on these roads, let me know what you thought.

If you have not done this route, please do; you will see why this route belongs on everyone's list.

Jay Padilla - Planning Committee Chair

www.edmontontoyrun.org



Santa Claus was the main attraction at the 36th annual Edmonton Toy Run on Sunday, kicking off the Santas Anonymous campaign for Christmas. *ED KAISER*

SANTA'S SIDECAR

Leather-clad motorcyclists arrive bearing toys to be given to children at Christmas

DYLAN SHORT

A train of leather-clad bikers, replete with bandanas, patches and teddy bears made their way through the city on Sunday for the 36th annual Edmonton Toy Run.

The city's motorcycle community gathered in the Capilano Mall parking lot, equipped with dragons, puzzles, water guns and other toys ready to be donated to Santas Anonymous.

"It's amazing to be here for 36 consecutive years with this incredible community of motorcycle riders from all over the Edmonton area," said Jay Padilla, a volunteer with the toy run.

"Even though it's still kinda cool out, we're still getting a pretty good turnout. The sun is out and I couldn't be prouder or happier to be here."

Close to 2,000 motorcycle riders were expected to make the trip

from the mall to Hawrelak Park on a route that included a trip across the High Level Bridge.

Leading the way was Santa Claus, guiding riders into the park. Also in attendance were riders dressed up as the Grinch and Elmo and Kermit from Sesame Street.

Once bikers arrived at the park, they loaded their unwrapped, unopened toys into a 16-metre trailer as a band played in the Haw-

relax amphitheatre.

"I love to see kids smile," said Denise Kerychuk, who attends the event every year in her custom Kermit riding gear.

"Honestly, there are so many charities that us as a motorcycle community come together for and this one here, this one is in our home. We see little faces every day, we don't know if that child gets to have joy on Christmas."

Fort C. McMurray, who emceed

the ride each year, said the event is a chance for the motorcycle enthusiasts to join forces to help a good cause while also dispelling negative stereotypes surrounding the community.

"It's really cool for all of us to get together on an occasion like this and raise money and toys and all sorts of wonderful stuff. It's a good chance to check out all the bikes, too," McMurray said.

dshort@pastmedia.com

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 us your answers to the following questions along with two to three pictures to: newsletteredmontontoyrun@gmail.com

1. How did you first get into motorcycles, and what keeps you riding today?
2. What drew you to the Edmonton Toy Run, and what does participating mean to you personally?
3. What's one Toy Run moment that has stayed with you over the years?
4. How has being part of the riding community shaped your life or relationships?
5. Tell us about your bike-what do you ride, and why is it the right machine for you?
6. What's the part of riding that brings you the most joy or freedom?
7. What are your favourite local or Alberta routes, and what makes them special?
8. Do you have any riding rituals, must-have gear, or pre-ride habits that ground you?
9. What do you think makes the Edmonton riding community distinct or meaningful?
10. What do you hope the Toy Run continues to grow into in the coming years?

*Accompanying pictures add impact :)

Scholarship

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 Scholarship Package.

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

Deadline to apply is September 1st, 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



Reminder!!!!

2026 Memberships are now available!

Renewals are still only \$15

New Memberships are \$25

Available through the website:

<https://edmontontoyrun.org/memberships>



Contact Information:

Edmonton Toy Run:

edmontontoyrun@gmail.com

Last Month's Event Recap:

Thank you everyone that came to our Bike Night on July 28th. The 50/50 take home was \$427.00. We look forward to seeing you all at our **3rd Annual Poker Run on August 15th** (watch for route info on our Facebook page) and our next Bike Night on August 25th.

Contest Time

Find the error 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 S., who found last month's error, which was "Contract Info" instead of "Contact Info"

Dad Joke:

A pair of jumper cables walk into a bar. The bartender says, I'm fine to serve you but you better not start anything.

Q: Why can't motorcycles do planks?

A: Because they're always two-tired.

My wife asked me if I could go wash the car with our son. I told her a hose would probably be more efficient.

Q: Why should you always carry peanut butter in your car?

A: In case there's a traffic jam.

I was really stoked about buying one of those new electric cars. But when I got to the dealership the prices were just too shocking!

Q: Why are standards so reliable?

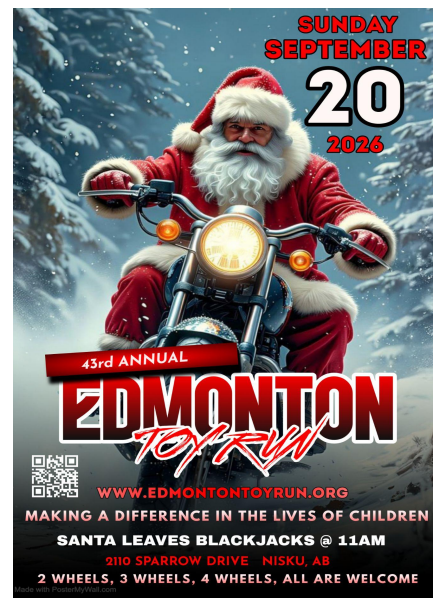
A: They always come in clutch.



2026 Committee Members:

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

Jay Padilla, Hazel Gillis, Gabe Barrington-Moss, Denise Chenier, Nik Hewlett, Heather Gillis, Freya Giroux, Landon Kublik, David & Daphne Dowbush, Ruby Benson



Word Puzzles Brain Teasers

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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?

Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run

August 15, 2026 - 3rd Annual Poker Rally

August 22, 2026 - Coffee@Fifendekel: See Ad

August 25, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 12, 2026 - Coffee@Fifendekel: See Ad

September 15, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 20, 2026 - 43rd Annual Toy Run

October 17, 2026 - Coffee@Fifendekel: See Ad

November 21, 2026 - Coffee@Fifendekel: See Ad

December 12, 2026 - Coffee@Fifendekel: See Ad

Check out our web page for even more events!

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

Links to Edmonton Toy Run:



Volunteers Needed!

The Edmonton Tog 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 August 22nd, 2026
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

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