



EDMONTON TOY RUN ASSOCIATION

Making a difference in the lives of children since 1984

NEWSLETTER

Issue #14 - July 2026

Santa's Mailbag

Hello Everyone!!!

With the motorcycle season well underway, I hope you are all out there riding as much as possible. I know the rain has been falling like crazy limiting us on how much we are riding, but time is of the essence. I would like to remind you that we are past the halfway point to Christmas and there are approximately 100 days left in the motorcycle season. We must get out and ride as much as possible.

In my last article, I spoke to the motorcycle industry, experiencing one of its most significant transformations in decades. More of this transformation comes in the way of the gear we wear for motorcycle riding.

Motorcycle gear in 2026 is moving beyond simple leather and armor. The biggest trend is smart protection, gear that can detect danger, react during a crash, and still be comfortable enough that riders actually wear it every day.

The growth of wearable airbag technology, Instead of only absorbing impact after a crash, modern systems can detect a crash and deploy protection around the rider's chest, back, shoulders, and neck. Faster electronic crash detection, lighter airbag vests, more coverage areas, better integration with jackets and suits. More options for street, touring, adventure, and track riders. If you have one of these I want to know what you think.

Smart helmets are becoming the rider's command center. The helmet is no longer just a shell, it is becoming a connected device. 2026 helmet technology includes Integrated communication systems, better noise reduction, rear cameras, voice controls, navigation assistance, some even have heads-up display technology. The goal is to keep riders' eyes on the road instead of looking down at a phone or motorcycle display.

Modern riders want protection that feels more like athletic equipment than a suit of armor.

Motorcycle jackets are becoming everyday clothing.

Protective streetwear, gear that looks like normal clothing but still offers motorcycle protection is super popular.

Riding hoodies with armor, casual jackets with abrasion resistant materials, protective jeans, motorcycle sneakers that look like everyday shoes.

This helps solve one of the biggest problems in motorcycling, riders skipping gear because it is inconvenient and does not mesh with everyday wear. Expect more technology around group communication, emergency alerts, and crash detection in the very near future.

Even with the rain there have been some epic events and rides this year. Ride for Mom, Ride for Dad, huge turnouts for bike nights and other events across the province! And there are so many more events coming this year. The Edmonton Toy Run is excited to host a full series of events including bike nights at Blackjacks, July 28th, August 25th and September 15th. Our 3rd 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.

Now the big announcement. Starting in the middle of July our Title Sponsor James H Brown will be starting a stuff the trailer campaign. We will be giving away prizes from our sponsors locations July, August and September. You will be able to enter on our social media, be sure to like and follow us and if you bring in a new unwrapped toy your entries will be 5 times entered to win.

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

Featured Rider(s)/Business

Some people join the Edmonton Toy Run; others grow up with it. Shaylyn is one of the latter—a young woman in her early twenties whose earliest memories include the rumble of motorcycles, the excitement of parade day, and the purpose that comes from helping families in need. With a family that has supported and helped organize the Toy Run for decades, she has seen the event evolve first as a child and now as an active contributor. Her story reflects the heart of the Toy Run: tradition, community, and values passed from one generation to the next.



This month, we spoke with **Shaylyn** about growing up within this beloved event, the moments that shaped her, and her hopes for its future.

What are some of your earliest memories of attending the Edmonton Toy Run as a child?

One of my biggest childhood memories is the whole family loading into the cars at Capilano Mall and trying to get to Hawrelak Park before the bikers arrived so we could get set up. I remember being excited to see Santa and the Grinch with his little dog, Max.

As I got older, around 10 or 11, I remember helping sort, count, and

package the T-shirt orders so they would be ready for run day. I also remember a time when my sister and I were asked to give away free swag in the amphitheatre because George needed it done.

Your family has been involved for many years. How has their commitment shaped your own connection to the event?

Because the Edmonton Toy Run has been a yearly tradition in our family for as long as I can remember, I plan to stay involved for many years to come. It is a worthy cause, but it also means so much to me because of the memories I have and all the fun I have had over the years.

When you were younger, what parts of the Toy Run felt the most magical or exciting to be a part of?

When I was very young, around four years old, the most magical moment for me was when Santa knew my name. I also remember being fascinated by watching the semi-truck start the day empty and then overflow with toys by the end of the event.

Now that you're in your early 20s, how has your involvement changed from when you were a kid tagging along to now being an active contributor?

As a child, I spent most of my time watching the event and dancing to the music. As I got older, I began helping with different tasks, such as loading and unloading the trailer, collecting toys, and handing out swag. Now, as an adult, I am no longer just helping wherever needed—I am assigned my own station, whether that means handing out T-shirt orders, selling T-shirts and memberships, or helping load and unload the vehicles and trailers. In recent

years, the Toy Run has also added more fundraising events, such as silent auctions, giving me even more opportunities to step up and help.

Is there a particular moment or year that stands out as especially meaningful or unforgettable?

One special moment that made me feel like I was truly making a difference was the year I was asked to stand at the truck and help accept the donated toys. I remember the bikers' smiles, laughter, and joy as we chatted about the fun variety of toys being donated.

Another moment I vaguely remember—I was about four—was the year George shaved off his moustache on stage at the amphitheatre. I was so sad because he looked different, but Nana explained that he was raising money for the Toy Run.

Growing up surrounded by riders and volunteers, how has your understanding of the motorcycle community evolved over time?

Growing up around the Toy Run, I always felt comfortable, safe, and welcome. I was never afraid to talk with the bikers, and even though I do not ride myself, I have always felt accepted as part of the community.

Are there any Toy Run traditions you look forward to every year, either old ones from childhood or new ones you've embraced as an adult?

One of my favourite traditions was when the committee and volunteers would gather early in the morning for breakfast before the long day ahead.

Another family tradition that stands out from my childhood is my mom dressing us all in ridiculous

Christmas outfits and blasting Christmas music in the car on the way to the event. Now imagine being that kid at the end of September... lol.

How has being part of the Toy Run community influenced your values, personality, or sense of community?

Being part of the Toy Run community since I was about three years old has helped me understand that many families struggle, and that without support, some children may not receive a gift at Christmas. I know Christmas is about much more than presents, but children do not always understand that—they may simply wonder why their friends received gifts and they did not. The Toy Run has given me a sense of pride in knowing I help support families during their time of need.

After so many years, what motivates you to stay involved and continue supporting the event?

I continue to support the Toy Run because it gives me a meaningful way to connect with my mom and nana while doing something fun and caring. As a young adult, I understand even more how important the Toy Run is in supporting families in need. There are many places I could volunteer, but with the Edmonton Toy Run, I always feel appreciated—and we always have fun.

As someone who has grown up with the Toy Run, what do you hope to see for its future and the next generation of young participants?

My hope is that the Toy Run continues to grow and that more people in my generation recognize the value it brings to Edmonton and the surrounding areas. I hope more

young people step forward to support the event and help it continue, because as long as families are struggling, there will always be a need for the Toy Run.

Thank you Shaylyn for taking the time to share with us on what it was like to grow up within the Edmonton Toy Run Family.

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

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



Contract Information:

Edmonton Toy Run:
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>

Last Month's Event Recap:

Thank you everyone that came to our Bike Night on June 23rd. It was nice to see the sun after all the rain we have had. Our 50/50 jackpot was \$2430.00. Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Bike Night on July 28th.

Upcoming Events by Edmonton Toy Run

July 28, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

August 15, 2026 - 3rd Annual Poker Rally

August 25, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

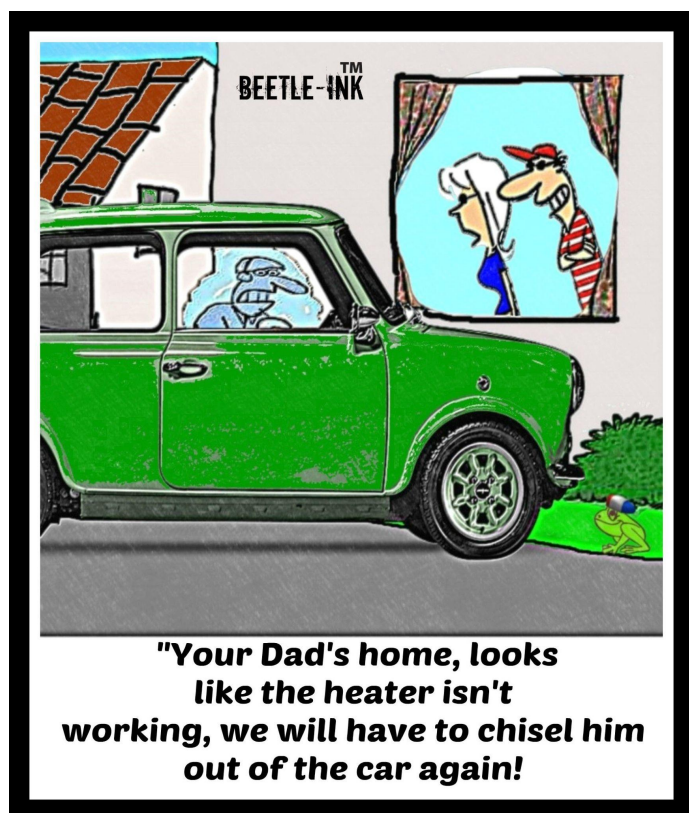
September 15, 2026 - Bike Night @ Blackjacks

September 20, 2026 - 43rd Annual Toy Run

Check out our web page for even more events!

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

Dad Joke:



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?

Contest Time

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.

There was no winner for the month of June. The error was in Denise's profile: "Power Run" instead of "Poker Run"

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

Links to Edmonton Toy Run:





SUMMER TIME



C	X	F	N	R	L	R	C	B	A	J	H	S	H	E	A	T	D	K	
S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	B	R	S	E	D	A	H	S	F	S
I	N	I	K	I	B	Q	S	R	N	O	C	O	B	Z	M	Z	S	N	R
S	J	K	B	V	E	A	B	O	I	H	A	M	M	O	C	K	U	F	I
M	A	L	N	P	N	T	L	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	K	J
V	Y	Q	Z	D	B	E	O	V	O	W	K	H	H	A	P	K	A	A	L
X	W	Y	A	K	M	S	O	P	A	P	V	T	W	P	P	C	U	M	P
P	A	L	O	R	V	C	P	R	I	C	O	A	I	G	I	G	U	S	C
J	S	L	E	W	N	A	D	S	Q	X	A	P	E	U	N	X	U	U	I
Z	F	T	E	X	E	M	S	U	Y	W	X	T	S	Q	S	E	Q	N	N
G	A	G	N	R	E	P	S	T	D	U	E	S	I	I	M	M	C	U	C
W	W	D	I	I	R	H	E	S	O	N	M	T	E	O	C	S	I	Z	I
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C	O	S	U	R	U	S	U	I	H	R	O	H	R	W	H	C	A	E	B
N	O	N	S	E	S	B	S	S	M	N	K	G	S	L	W	M	C	O	S
U	W	U	W	A	H	W	I	Q	A	T	V	T	W	A	X	X	N	L	C
J	V	S	L	M	E	F	A	D	R	U	B	C	K	R	E	U	E	D	B
I	A	D	R	A	U	G	E	F	I	L	Z	Q	B	X	Q	S	L	A	G

Word list:

BEACH
BIKINI
CAMP
FISHING
HAMMOCK
HEAT
ICECREAM

LEMONADE
LIFEGUARD
PARK
PICNIC
POOL
POPSICLE
RELAX

SAND
SANDALS
SANDCASTLE
SEASHELLS
SHADE
SUN
SUNSET

SUNDRESS
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SUNSHINE
SWIMSUIT
VACATION
WATERMELON



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

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