



**The Kiwanis Club of Red Deer
1951 – 1921**

**70 Years of Service
To Our Community**

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Foreword

Kiwanis is a worldwide service organization of about 592,820 K Club & Kiwanis members in 8,000 clubs in 80 nations. Being a member of Kiwanis provides an individual with opportunities to give of their time, talents and resources to help make their community and the world a better place in which to live and work. As a group Kiwanians can achieve what individuals cannot do alone. Thus, the motto and cornerstone of Kiwanis: "Improving the World one Child and one Community at a time".

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Calgary Downtown, the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer was chartered in 1951 with Fred Horn as its first President. During its early years the club benefited from the counsel of charter members Fred Horn, Dr. Stu Fleming and Dr. Harold Spencer.

In turn, the Kiwanis Club of Waskasoo, Red Deer was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer on March 23, 1964 which continued to provide Kiwanis service until it merged with the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer in 1994. Today there is one Kiwanis Club in Red Deer, and it continues the proud tradition of service to our community.

The club has approximately 40 men and women members residing in Red Deer and nearby communities. It meets twice monthly for evening dinner meetings in Red Deer. The program for each meeting includes a guest speaker who speaks briefly on a topic of current interest to members. At these meetings, club members socialize, decide on projects which the club will support or undertake and organize fund-raising activities.

Kiwanis is also a social organization so members of the club develop strong and lasting friendships. They come to enjoy the work of Kiwanis and profit from the support and strength they get from each other.

The work of the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer since its inception has taken many varied forms; all designed to make Red Deer a better place in which to live. Although we commemorate another milestone of the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer, this history is dedicated to the countless hours of service by dedicated men and women of both Kiwanis Clubs. Our accomplishments are many, reflecting the real reasons for celebrating Kiwanis in Red Deer: 70 Years of Service – 1951 - 2021.

The Very Special Ongoing Project of Red Deer Kiwanis

Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation

In 1953 Kiwanis recognized the pressing need in Red Deer for senior citizens' housing and nursing home facilities since there were no decent facilities available.

A committee was formed under the chairmanship of George Sinclair to tackle the problem. From these modest beginnings grew the Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation, a society created by the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer, to build and operate low rental accommodations for senior citizens in the community.

Every member of the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer is automatically a member of the Twilight Homes Foundation.

The Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation is a registered society under the Alberta Societies Act. The Foundation is governed by a nine-member board of directors comprised of eight members of the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer and one member at-large.

The motto of Kiwanis is "We Build" and build we did:

- 1954 - 16 cottages with accommodation for 32 seniors
- 1956 - Twilight Lodge - the first facility of its kind in Alberta - accommodating 52 seniors.
- 1958/1966 - 32 more cottages accommodating 64 seniors.
- 1967/68 - Centennial Courts accommodating 24 seniors.
- 1972/73 - Centennial Courts & Additions - 36 seniors.
- 1976 - Addition to Twilight Lodge completed.
- 1976 - Pines Lodge opened with accommodations for 65 seniors.
- 1977 - Canyon View Place sod turned - 41 suites.
- 1980 - Barrett Place built - 108 suites.
- 1983 - Fleming Manor opened - 25 suites.

In each of these projects the Kiwanis Club provided leadership and volunteer support which brought together many diverse groups, individuals, and levels of government needed for planning, raising funds for construction and building the projects.

In 1980 the City of Red Deer took over full management of the two lodges - the Twilight Lodge and the Pines Lodge – which along with Parkvale Lodge, was managed by the Piper Creek Lodge Foundation.

In 1985, the Government of Alberta purchased the seniors' residences from the Twilight Homes Foundation and entered into a management agreement whereby the Foundation managed and operated these facilities.

The Foundation received a substantial sum of cash for the facilities and simultaneously received several large bequests and gifts from individuals who valued the good works of the Foundation and wished to support its activities. This added a new dimension to the purposes of the Foundation since now it had a sizeable cash endowment to manage and disburse the proceeds for worthy community causes.

Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation is no longer responsible for the management of the seniors' facilities comprising Centennial Kiwanis Courts, the Kiwanis Cottages, Barrett Kiwanis

Place, Canyon View Kiwanis Place, Fleming Kiwanis Manor and Waskasoo Kiwanis Towers all of which were taken over by Piper Creek Lodge in 2010 now renamed Bridges Community Living.

The Red Deer Twilight Homes expands its' Benevolent Society Mandate

The Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation now exists as a benevolent society that supports the well being of seniors as well as other worthy projects in Red Deer and the surrounding community.

Donations to Senior-activities and housing include

Christmas Dinners – 1986 to 2008
Transportation to Church via cars – 1998 to 2008
Bus trips to points of interest 1983 to 2021
Garden/ Promote Gardening / exercise 1986 – 2008
Mayor's Garden Party (bus transportation)
Seniors Swim Program
Senior Lodges amenities

Total \$331,308

Donations to the Community made on an annual basis

Festival of Trees - \$118,100
Red Deer Hospice - \$634,050
R.D. College Scholarships - \$35,227
Alberta & NWT Alzheimer Society - \$78,500
Festival of Performing Art (Formerly Kiwanis Music Festival) \$30,000

Total \$895,877

Kiwanis Club of Red Deer

Total \$54,225

Major Donations since 1982

Red Deer Regional Hospital - \$879,693
RDC Arts Centre - \$46,173
Golden Circle renovations - \$23,853
Westerner Building Elevator Lift - \$60,503
City of Red Deer Swimming Pool / spa Facility - \$114,550
Red Deer Museum Atrium - \$42,500
Red Deer public Library - \$59,900
Red Deer Sports Hall of Fame - \$50,520
Kiwanis Safety City Building Project - \$62,974
Harmony Garden (Kerry Wood Nature Centre) - \$49,244
Ellis Bird Farm - \$40,000
Medicine River W.C - \$20,000
CNIB - \$45,000
Ronald MacDonald House - \$75,000
Central AB Women's Emergency Shelter - \$16,500

	Total \$1,532,410
Plus Many Other Donations	Total \$65,925
Grand Total	<u>\$2,293,854</u>

Kiwanis Club of Red Deer's Support is Long Term

Camp Sherbino - Girl Guide Camp

In 1954 the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer purchased 80 acres near Sylvan Lake to develop a wilderness type camp for Girl Guides and Rangers. After clearing the site, over the years Kiwanis built a cookhouse, two large assembly halls, cabins for sleeping, a Ranger's cabin and storage buildings. Each year Kiwanis members hold work parties to maintain and improve the facilities. Additionally, money raised by Kiwanis, modest rental fees for groups other than the Guides and cash rent receipts from a farmer who crops the unused land pays for upkeep and improvements. In recent years, the Girl Guides and their parents help to staff the Kiwanis bingo crews 3-4 times per year. They participate in the profits which the Guides use at their discretion to fund the camp's operation and to make improvements.

Each year about 800 to 1000 Girl Guides ages 5 to 17, mostly from central Alberta, use the camp primarily during the winter season-September to May. It is the only local wilderness type camp available to the Girl Guides so it is very important to them for earning their badges related to outdoor activities.

Camp Sherbino was named after Arnold and Pat Sherbino. Arnold was a devoted Kiwanian whose leadership and hard work was instrumental in starting the Camp and laying groundwork for its continued success. Pat Sherbino, Arnold's wife, was active in the Guide movement for many years.

The annual budget for upkeep, property taxes, insurance and improvements is approximately \$7,000.

The Red Deer Festival of the Performing Arts

In 1964 the Kiwanis Club organized and held the first Kiwanis Music Festival with Dr. Stu Fleming as its founder and Chairman. Stu was a driving force in the Kiwanis Club and the Festival for many years. In the first year, entries were mostly piano and vocal solos and a few school choruses. The only two bands came from Canadian Union College in Lacombe. The budget was approximately \$2,000.

The Kiwanis Club, in 1986, created the Red Deer Festival of the Performing Arts Society to operate the festival. At that time, members of the Kiwanis Club still did much of the planning, organizing and fund raising. In 1991 the Society was recognized as a registered charity for income tax purposes so donations are now tax deductible. Presently, the general public now operate the annual festival. The Kiwanis Club and its members contribute about \$5,000 to the Society each year as well as providing volunteers during the festival days.

Competitions, which held in piano, vocal, speech, drama, band, brass, ensembles, strings, percussion, woodwind and organ. Venues include Red Deer College and Sunnybrook United Church.

Red Deer Kiwanis Safety City

On April 23, 2001 Red Deer Kiwanis Safety City, opened to its first class of primary school children at its site, located at 55th Street and 30th Avenue in East Red Deer

Based on a concept originating in Illinois in 1972, Safety City is a mini streetscape, with paved streets and avenues situated on 3.5 acres of land leased from the Government of Alberta. Adding realism to the site, are small buildings, called kiosks, leased, and built by businesses in Red Deer which pay an annual rental to be part of Safety City. These community minded businesses have exclusive right to distribute promotional materials to the estimated 3,600 pupils, 500 teachers and parents, and hundreds of others who visit the site during the year. But their involvement goes beyond this. Our kiosk partners are also involved because the owners feel a commitment to enhancing safety for children in Red Deer and Central Alberta.

The goal of Safety City is to improve safety in the community by providing training facilities, safety resources and professional expertise to reduce or eliminate accidents, injuries, or deaths. The motto of "Help Prevent Injuries Now – Not When We Have to Mend the Hurt", became a hallmark during an ambitious capital campaign. Safety City's programs are geared towards children in the very impressionable ages from four to eight years old. In the classrooms and under supervision on the streets and avenues of Safety City, children learn pedestrian and traffic safety. As experience is gained and further needs are determined, other safety programs will be added to a greater age range of clients.

Fund raising and construction of Safety City was a joint millennium project of Red Deer Safety City Society and the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer. Supported by major corporate contributions, service clubs and individuals, as well as foundations and lottery funding, Safety City has raised more than \$550,000 in cash and "in kind" goods and service donations. Operation of the facility and its programs is under the jurisdiction of a 12-member board of directors on which the Kiwanis club has 3 appointees. Day-to-day administration and instruction are carried out by a paid Executive Director.

The Golden Circle

In 1977, as an anniversary project to celebrate the Kiwanis' Silver Anniversary in Red Deer, the Kiwanis Club raised \$116,000 in a 24-hour telethon to assist with building the Golden Circle, a special and recreational drop-in centre for senior citizens. The Kiwanis Club continues to be involved on the Management Board of the Golden Circle and has donated funds periodically from Twilight Homes Foundation to enable the Centre to purchase office equipment and print its service directory.

Christmas Carol Festival

Annually, the Kiwanis Club sponsors and organizes a Christmas Carol Festival, held at Gaetz Memorial United Church in early December. Members of Kiwanis chair and organize the event as well as usher, emcee, lead the carol singing by the audience, pass out song sheets and take a collection each evening.

Local church and school choirs, vocal groups, bands and orchestras, and individuals are invited to participate and sing or play songs of Christmas. Proceeds from the collection go to the Red Deer Christmas Bureau and the Red Deer Food Bank. It has become a tradition that many of the audience bring food for the Red Deer Food Bank. We typically raise over a \$1,000 cash and hundreds of dollars' worth of food for our community.

Our Support also Includes Worldwide Projects

Iodine Deficiency Disorder Syndrome

Kiwanis International sponsors the IDD Worldwide Service Program designed to introduce iodized salt into the diets of children in the developing world to prevent effects such as goitre, mental retardation and physical defects caused by a lack of iodine.

In 1995/96 Kiwanis International set a goal of raising \$75,000,000 US to build plants in developing countries to introduce iodine into the salt used in human consumption. In total our club donated \$16,000 to this worldwide humanitarian project co-ordinated by UNICEF.

Eliminate Project:

With The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. The effects of the disease are excruciating. Over a 5-year period we raised \$10,000.00 for that cause.

Our Support is Ongoing for Schools and Education

The Terrific Kids Program

In the spring of 1991, Kiwanis started a program called “Terrific Kids” which now includes six Red Deer Elementary Schools. Terrific Kids is designed to enhance the self-concept of elementary school pupils. The awards and individual recognition built into the program help these children to feel good about themselves, thereby improving both their academic performance and their relations with other children and adults.

Each month a “Terrific Kid” is selected by the teacher from each classroom in the two schools. Every student selected receives a T-shirt, pencil, imprinted with the words; “I am a Terrific Kid”. Kiwanis members at a school assembly held monthly in each school present these awards.

Parents of the children being recognized are also invited. This helps all participants gain a renewed appreciation for pupils, teachers and the important work carried out by our schools. Teachers and principals are enthusiastic about the program and have urged that it continue for it has had a very positive impact upon student attitudes in all schools. The Kiwanis Club budgets approximately \$6,000 annually to fund this program.

Scholarships and Awards

The Kiwanis Club donates funds to Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School, Notre Dame High School, Hunting Hills High School and St. Joseph High School for annual scholarships and awards to deserving students. Our current budget for these awards is \$2,000.

A Broad Range of Educational Support

Kiwanis routinely supports a wide variety of school initiatives, such as music programs, elementary school breakfast programs and the P.A.R.T.Y. Program. We’ve provided financial assistance to the Aspen Heights Elementary Schools’ MicroSociety, Red Deer Public Schools summer reading program at Red Deer Polytechnic, and the Red Deer Public’s Finish Line Project supporting students, who are close to graduating but dropped out of school for various reasons, to receive their grade 12 diploma. In addition, we support Your Writers’ Workshop, the attendance of students on additional workshops on multiculturalism, and the purchase of books for use in the special education classrooms in Red Deer Public and Catholic schools, the Central Alberta Regional Science Fair.

Central Alberta Child Advocacy Centre (CACAC)

Kiwanis, in 2018 committed \$50,000 over five years to help build a facility for the CACAC at the Red Deer College.

Additional Projects and initiatives Supported by Kiwanis

Red Deer Royals, Harmony Garden at Kerry Wood Nature Centre, the Red Deer Minor Soccer Association and a handball team at the Alberta Winter Games, Summer camps for special needs children, minor football; midget boy's baseball and girls fastball have also benefited from the efforts of the Kiwanis.

Our Past Support Has Made Red Deer a Better Community

Red Deer Library Expansion and Renovations (1993/95)

In addition to \$45,000 donated by the Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation, an additional \$35,000 was contributed by the Kiwanis Club of Waskasoo for a total contribution of \$80,000 from Kiwanis. A meeting room and an auditorium in the library are named to recognize Kiwanis and the Red Deer Twilight Homes Foundation.

Alberta Special Olympics

In the early 1980's, Waskasoo Kiwanis provided the financing for an individual to travel around Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and the N.W.T to establish Special Olympics chapters in these regions, in line with International Special Olympics requirements. The Alberta Regional Special Olympics headquarters were initially established in Red Deer, with the board consisting primarily of Kiwanis members. Consequently, the sponsored individual received the Special Olympics Harry "Red" Foster Award in recognition of his outstanding service to Special Olympics. It was only the second such award granted in Canada, with the initial recipient being retired NHL player Lanny MacDonald. Special Olympics is now well established and Alberta, B.C. and N.W.T./Yukon, now operating as separate regions in the Canadian organization.

Red Deer Youth & Volunteer Centre

In 1993, Waskasoo Kiwanis purchased a property on 49th Street at a cost of \$55,000, which was provided, to the Boys and Girls Club to serve as the base for their Red Deer activities. The Red Deer Youth and Volunteer Centre continues to operate out of its newly expanded facilities at this location. As a commitment to the capital campaign initiated by the Rotary Club of Downtown Red Deer, Kiwanis transferred title for \$1.00 to the Youth and Volunteer Centre.

People With Special Needs

In June and July 1991, the Kiwanis Club spent \$5,300.00 to remove and replace furnishings in a family residence to which a 19-month-old child was extremely allergic. These changes made it possible for this special child to start living at home with her family, having been confined to the Red Deer Regional hospital from birth. The Waskasoo club also spent \$5,600 for a similar circumstance, purchasing a home air purification system for a child with severe allergies in a

family with limited means.

In 1985, the Waskasoo club purchased a battery driven scooter for a disabled young man living on his own. Our assistance enabled this person to no longer be housebound, moving around town with much greater freedom and self-sufficiency.

Picnic Area at Little Chief Park

With financing provided by Waskasoo Kiwanis, in 1980 the City of Red Deer constructed cooking facilities and a picnic area at Little Chief Park, which continue to be used by our citizens. This picnic area is used extensively by families and large group gatherings during the summer months

Crime Prevention

In the early 1970's, Waskasoo Kiwanis sponsored the design and construction of a crime prevention trailer at a cost of \$14,000, for use by the rural detachment of the R.C.M.P. This custom-built unit was used for several years by the R.C.M.P. as they travelled to schools, trade fairs, rodeos, and shopping centres with a variety of displays on home security and drug awareness.

The R.C.M.P. eventually re-directed this outreach initiative, so the trailer was returned to Kiwanis and donated to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization, who continue to use it at the Camp Alexo retreat near Nordegg.

The Red Deer Kiwanis club also provided financial support to the R.C.M.P. "Victims of Crime" project. This project was designed to aid victims of crime in Red Deer with the \$4,000 Kiwanis donation being directed to the purchase of a computer to increase the program's effectiveness.

The Salvation Army

Kiwanis has long provided support to the Salvation Army in Red Deer, primarily by assisting in their spring door to door and Christmas kettle funding drives. Kiwanis members also volunteered their time and funding by constructing three cabins at the Salvation Army's Pine Lake summer camp.

Numerous Other Community Support Projects

Kiwanis donated \$750.00 to the fund established by the United Way for the purchase of a computer to enable it to operate more efficiently and effectively. Over the years, significant funds have been donated by Kiwanis to support miscellaneous community projects. Examples in recent years include a blood-warming unit at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, the Central Alberta Women's Shelter and Women's Outreach Society. Kiwanis helped fund the purchase of a

computer by the Genealogical Society, the purchase of songbooks for a senior's residence and support to the Red Deer Fire Emergency Fund.

In any given year the programs supported by the Kiwanis in Red Deer and are tough the lives of between 13,000 and 15,000 children!

Fund Raising by Kiwanis

In order to carry out the many good works of Kiwanis, our members raise around \$50,000 each year. The major fund-raising activities fall into several categories:

Past Kiwanis Fund Raising

Annual Kiwanis Apple Sales Campaign

During late September each year, our members, spouses, and friends sold baskets of fancy McIntosh apples door-to-door to the residents of Red Deer, raising thousands of dollars annually. With the growth of the city this campaign changed with the times and the Club sold apples on 3 consecutive Saturdays at the Farmers' Market, and other commercial venues, raising about \$3000 each year. This fund-raising campaign came to an end in the early 2000s as the price of apples went up and access to purchasing them became more of a problem.

Red Deer River Raft Race

For many years the Waskasoo Kiwanis held a raft race on the Red Deer River. Objectives of the project were to provide a fund day for participants, raise the profile of Kiwanis in the community and to raise funds for community projects. This project was terminated in 1996, primarily due to ever increasing concerns by club members regarding potential injuries to race participants. Many members still remember the entertainment provided to race watchers stationed along the river as a wide variety of watercraft, carrying costumed characters, floated down the river through our city. The funds raised by this project averaged around \$3,000 per year.

Present Fund Raising comes from three Initiatives and one new one

Bingos & Casinos

The Club operates 12 bingos each year through the Red Deer Bingo Association. For each bingo we must have at least 10 workers, relying upon spouses and friends of Kiwanis to assist.

The Club also holds one casino approximately every 3rd year when granted a license.

Golf Tournament

When the Waskasoo Kiwanis Club merged with the Kiwanis Club of Red Deer, we continued to operate their annual golf tournament, which has been ongoing for 58 years. The tournament is held in mid-August or early September at the Sylvan Lake Golf and Country Club. We strive to get 144 golfers, a number of community sponsors to earn about \$20,000 annually.

Wine Survivor Raffle

In 2021 the club initiated a new fund raiser called the 'Wine Survivor Raffle'. Thanks for the energy and enthusiasm of six new members of the club got behind and supported this new project. This was an attempt to not only find a new means to raise funds but to also try and kick start the Clubs community efforts. For almost two years prior to this the Club had been very much limited in what it could do as a result of a worldwide pandemic. Vaccinations, the wearing of masks, limited movements, quarantines, sanitizers, and hospitals being taxed to the limit were all part of daily life. Needless to say, the economy took a real hit as did the Club' regular fundraisers (no golf tournaments, no casino & limited bingos).
