

# ***Volunteer Appreciation Awards 2025***

## ***Nomination Criteria***

### **Community Builder Award – 5 Awards to be presented.**

Community Builders enrich the lives of others and strengthen relationships to build a safe, connected community and help create a sense of belonging.

Nominees in this category can be an individual, organization or local business who consistently go the extra mile. They give back and act to ensure our community members of all ages get the opportunities and support they need to grow and flourish. They share their skills, talents, and kindness which make our community a better place.

### **Mayor's Award of Excellence**

Town of Edson Mayor, Kevin Zahara, will select from the collection of nominees a deserving individual, community organization or business for the Mayor's Award of Excellence. This award was created to honour those who have made outstanding contributions to the Town of Edson through volunteer service.

## **2024 Nominees**

**Name of Nominee:** *Moving Edson (Edson Seniors Transportation Society)*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

Over the past two years, ESTS has done remarkable work to re-imagine what their organization can do to enrich the lives of our residents. They have re-branded and expanded their services to other demographics, and continue building a sustainable service for our residents. The Volunteer Board, drivers and their Executive Director should be recognized for their compassion and dedication to "Moving Edson."

When ESTS was called upon to support the evacuation efforts, the Board response was "Yes, go, and don't stop." ESTS was instrumental in the evacuation of our vulnerable residents, and also supported their safe return home.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Danielle Beaupre & Staff at Beaupre Bus Services*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

Danielle and her drivers provided our community with exceptional service during the evacuation. When Danielle pulled up to the leisure centre in her bus, she opened the door and assured ESS staff that she and her bus drivers would not stop until everyone had been safely evacuated from our community. Although this was a hired service, running busses under these unprecedented circumstances at hand was above and beyond the regular call of duty. Danielle and her drivers were here to support our community because they chose to, not because they had to. They answered the call of our community, and did not stop until residents evacuated and returned home safely.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Jeff Miko*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

He is always seeing a gap that needs filled and will come up with an idea or event to fill it. He endlessly and happily volunteers his time anywhere needed. He's been volunteering and coaching senior boys volleyball for 8 seasons and brought them to provincials two years in a row. He is on the board for the Edson Legion. Trying to educate the values of the legions and spearheading events. From the legion golf tournament, camp out and the legion cornhole league. Filling in and helping wherever required. Being an employee of Secure Energy they are first to enthusiastically say yes to events requiring a bbq. Especially if kids are involved. You will always see Jeff out there in his hamburger hat handing out a hotdog with the biggest smile and a kind word.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Fran Armstrong*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

If something needs doing Fran is there! She volunteers at the museum in a regular basis. She's willing to pitch in whenever something needs doing. In January we celebrated Julian's retirement from dentistry. Fran literally rolled up her sleeves and spent an afternoon preparing vegetables. The following day she was at the museum early to help set up, filing trays, gathering dirty dishes and being extremely helpful. At the end of the evening the venue was spotless! Fran is a fireball of activity! Every volunteer group needs a Fran!

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**Name of Nominee:** *Marsha Jensen*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

Marsha is an individual who dedicates hours of her time to numerous organizations, including, but not limited to, the Cadets, the Edson hospital foundation, and various other organizations and events throughout the years. Marsha is a champion for her community and a go to person for dedicated and professional volunteer work that needs to be done to keep our community, vibrant, relevant, and moving forward. The Spring Fling Fashion Show and fundraiser comes to mind as a recent event that captured the hearts and smiles of many, and directly benefits our community with improved medical equipment for our medical team here.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate a deserving Edson-nite for this accolade. Marsha truly embodies the essence of what I think of as a "community builder" by evidence of her efforts and dedication to our community.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Parkland Lodge Auxiliary*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

By helping our seniors with us holding fundraisers which helps us have tea and bake sales. We pay for movie, popcorn and pop during senior week. Halloween we judge the seniors and give 3 gift certificates to the most original/best dressed. Our big costs are \$25.00 gift certificates for each senior for their birthdays at Christmas they receive a \$100.00 gift certificate. We are a small group with big hearts that work hard to help our seniors. The Auxiliary also built the park behind the Parkland lodge for all seniors to enjoy, they also hold a grandparent walk-a-thon every September in our community.

We are a Non profit organization, and with out the help of our community we would not be able to do what we do.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Ken Biron*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

Ken is a very busy volunteer at the Pioneer Cabin. He is responsible for the vast majority of all maintenance inside the building as well as a lot of the snow removal of the sidewalks. Ken is at the cabin daily puttering with all the things that crop up. He has been volunteering there for over 20 years. He has been very active in the Edson Elks for over 49 years, always in the front of the catering and whatever else is to be done. Along with all this is the sole caregiver for his son who is battling with Muscular Dystrophy .

He always has a smile on his face and always quick to offer his help. His words are "I am not afraid to tackle anything and YouTube is my friend".

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**Name of Nominee:** *Joanne Fossheim*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

Joanne has volunteered for many organizations and is currently the Treasurer for ECHO - Edson Cultural Heritage Organization. Not only is she a valued member of ECHO but she also is a member of the Yellowhead Gas Co-op. Joanne consistently goes above and beyond donating her time and skillset to oversee not only the financials for our organization but any aspect in which she can contribute. She volunteers for every event and activity and has a main roll in the planning and implementation. We value Joanne and all of her time spent to help us offer the best quality of service and events to the community and surrounding area. Joanne selflessly donates hours of her time and we cannot appreciate her more! She is a very large part of The Red Brick Arts Centre & Museum and we value all she does for us!!

Joanne recently jumped on board to help us plan a Mother's Day Event in our theatre. She came up with a performer, door prizes from local businesses, and of course will be here donating her time at the event. This is just one of the many events in which she has taken on a major roll.

Joanne Foshheim has been a volunteer on our board for over ten years! Her commitment and heart is commendable and we want her to know that we all appreciate her efforts.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Yellowhead Agricultural Society*

**Why are they a "Community Builder?":**

The YAS has been in operation since 1975. Since this time, the society has provided endless recreation, education and entertainment opportunities for the Edson and surrounding areas. The society and events are all put on by volunteers who regularly contribute over 5000 hours collectively each year to the success of the YAS and community involvement. Through a tireless 10 year journey of up and downs while needing to upgrade and/or replace the existing community facility, the society will finally be able to present a new and improved facility and opportunities for the community. We are proud of the endless hours from the hundreds of board members and community volunteers who worked together in making this accomplishment happen. I feel the YAS is a community builder, who looks for ways to involve all community interest groups and welcoming arms to new event or education ideas, newcomers to area, and inclusion of other user groups or recreational interest groups. The YAS continuously gives back to the community by providing annual scholarships, farm safety awareness, youth building opportunities, cancer research, and support of the local food bank and hamper programs to assist residents who are struggling. The membership has increased from 40 to 500 in the past 15 years. I would like to say that I believe the YAS is a Community Builder. There are many local individuals that have had a part of the Society over the past 49 years that individually deserve the recognition of Community Builders, however it is near impossible to only pick one, so I've decided to nominate the Society in its entirety, inclusive of all past and present members and volunteers.

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**Name of Nominee:** *The Heart of Edson Gallery and Studio (Jayne & Julian)*

**Why are they a “Community Builder?”:**

The Heart of Edson has truly become the heart of arts and culture in Edson. In addition to providing a place for local artists and artisans to display and sell their work, Jayne and Julian have created a space where regional and touring musicians come to perform. Their concert series is the main reason I am nominating them for a Community Builder award.

Since August 2021, the gallery has hosted 10 concerts that have been attended by people of all ages from Edson and area. Jayne and Julian do the ticket sales, setup & teardown--everything that goes into presenting a concert--for free. All the money taken in through tickets goes to the performers. I recall talking to Julian about the first concert with Scott Cook & The Indoorables. He found an album by Scott that he really liked and was motivated to try presenting a concert behind the main gallery space. Jayne & Julian collected furniture, tracked down a small stage, set up lights. That first show was a great success, and Julian was motivated to connect with more artists and present more shows. Jayne & Julian even renovated their building to enhance the comfort of performers and audience. They started out with one bathroom but have now added four bathrooms plus a Green Room (artist) space, improving the experience for musicians and audience. They have invested in their business as a place for people to come together and celebrate the performing and visual arts.

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**Name of Nominee:** *Girl Guides of Canada- Edson*

**Why are they a “Community Builder?”:**

Building up girls, creating new, fun experiences, giving girls the opportunity to challenge themselves, Girl Guides are more than just cookies! Currently Girl Guides have 10 wonderful women running our local Units, 7 of whom do not have children in Guiding. Most of us were Leaders with our children and have continued because of the friendships we've developed with each other and believing in giving girls new opportunities and challenges.

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