

# Elk Point Review

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## Arena fundraiser aimed at turning acres into ice

VICKI BROOKER  
*Elk Point Review*

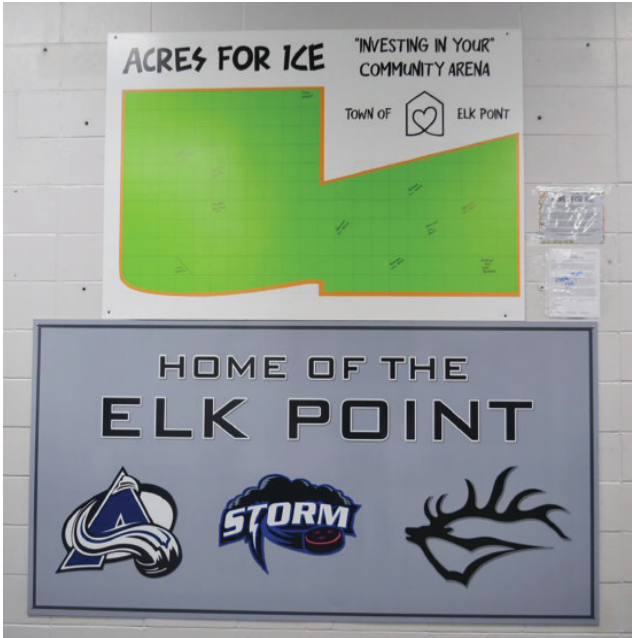
**ELK POINT** – The need for a new ice plat at A. G. Ross Arena that could cost in the neighborhood of \$1.2 million has sparked the arena’s fundraising committee to set up a subcommittee of parents and volunteers to run a new and innovative project entitled Acres for Ice.

The goal of the new group is to farm local land to raise funds for the ice plant, and started off by inviting sponsorship of one acre for \$250 or a half-acre for \$125. The project gained instant momentum when the use of 200 acres near town was donated by Aarbo Ranching, followed by offers by seed, fertilizer and chemical companies to donate their products to get the crop in the ground, with farm machinery dealerships also getting on board in recent weeks.

“All of them are being recognized with thank you posts,” says Brittany Brousseau, who said that if enough acres aren’t sponsored to cover the other costs of seeding and harvest, some of the funds will be used for that, with whatever is left over going into the ice plant fund.

A recent beef raffle sold out and earned the group \$20,000, with the beef and its cutting and wrapping all donated, Brousseau said, and other sources of revenue are being explored. Hopes are high that Elk Point might win the Kraft Hockeyville title or one of its subsidiary prizes, and grant applications are going to gather more toward the costly but much needed purchase.

Elk Point’s arena is “one of the few arenas run entirely by volunteers, and we couldn’t do any of this without the community behind us,” Brousseau adds. “This is truly a very special town to be in.”



Vicki Brooker photo  
Much like the way this area’s pioneers cleared land more than 100 years ago, Elk Point and area residents are investing in the new ice plant one acre at a time.

## Canada Day planning gets underway

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**ELK POINT** – With exactly five months to go before July 1, planning for Elk Point’s 2023 Canada Day celebrations got underway last Wednesday. It was a small but idea-filled gathering. Town Coun. Wanda Cochrane, who was appointed to the committee at last October’s council organizational meeting, had contacted a number of community groups, but only five representatives came to this inaugural meeting to express their ideas for a memorable celebration of Canada’s 156th birthday.

To this point, the Friends of the Library’s always popular pancake breakfast, a pyrohy supper and country music concert at the Allied Arts and the traditional jamboree at the Seniors’ Recreation Centre have been confirmed, along with a petting zoo during the afternoon activities, and while no Elk Point and District Lions representatives were able to attend, there was little doubt that lining up the Canada Day Parade was already on their schedule.

When asked what they would add to fill out the day’s schedule, new ideas for everything from a family obstacle course to a junior firefighting competition were brought forward, along with potential sources of stage entertainment, face painting, balloon animals and other activities.

Elk Point will not have an FCSS outdoor movie this year, Cochrane said, and she has not yet tracked down an available fireworks provider, but hopes to do so in the near future.

Elk Point is well known for its Canada Day celebrations, which have



File photo  
Snow may still be on the ground but planning is well underway for Elk Point’s Canada Day celebration in July including the annual parade

been held, rain or shine, every July 1 since the early 1980s, with at least some recognition given to the country’s birthday even in the darkest days of 2020, when COVID restrictions prevented everything but a short parade organized at the last minute by Elk Point’s firefighters and a takeout lunch giveaway at Magic Pizza. The following year, with restrictions lifted just before July 1 and very little time to add to the event, the parade was longer and Shirley and Glen Harms

rallied enough volunteers to host the pancake breakfast, with Magic Pizza once again showing appreciation to the community with takeout following the parade.

Last year saw a great start for a volunteer-run Canada Day, but less that great cooperation from the weatherman, with afternoon activities definitely dampened by showers, and this year’s planning committee is definitely hoping for a sunny day this time around.

## Town hall meeting date set

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**ELK POINT** – Those wanting to hear a first-hand version of the facts and to ask questions about a proposed group facility to house children from birth to 12 years old who have been removed from their family homes for safety reasons will have the opportunity to do just that on Thursday, March 2 when the Town of Elk Point hosts a town hall meeting at the Seniors Recreation Centre.

The proposal for the home has been submitted by Melanie Poulin and would require an amendment to the Town of Elk Point’s Land Use Bylaw 717/13 for the R2 – Medium Density Residential District.

News of the potential development has brought forth rumors and raised a number of questions by residents, and at the Jan. 23 town council meeting, Mayor Parrish Tung suggested an open house be held for the benefit of town residents, Poulin and town council, where concerns could be heard and answered.