

June 18, 2025

Mayor's Recognition Awards 2025

The annual awards program serves to recognize and thank citizens for their significant contributions to our community. In addition to the Mayor's Special Awards, 24 groups and individuals were honoured in the following award categories:

- Athletics
- Distinguished Voluntary Service
- Community Builder

Athletics:

Recognizing individuals or teams placing first in a national event or competition, or placing first, second or third in an international event or competition sanctioned by the respective national or international governing body or placing first at the highest possible level that can be achieved in their sport.

Cody Corotan
Mary Marshall
Sofia Reyes

Red Deer 18U AAA BAEL CarStar Braves

Gavin Armstrong
Jake Brooks
Cash Buchwitz
Keefer Callaghan
Owen Coumont
Nathan Flewelling
Addison Giesbrecht
Evan Gorr
Hudson Hoy
Corbin Lochhead
Zach MacDonald
Sawyer Marshall
Tanner Morrow
Nate Mountjoy
Noah Nakonechny

Ryder Petryshen
Mason Proctor
Evan Russell
Luke Schmitt
Dominic Skjonsberg
Michael Szpak
Nathan Vennard
Nicholas Westendorp
Josh Zanolli, *Head Coach*
Brad Morrow, *Assistant Coach*
Curtis Flewelling, *Assistant Coach*
Jeff MacDonald, *Assistant Coach*
Bobbi Buchwitz, *Manager/Chef de Mission*

ISKF Red Deer

Cody Corotan
Emma Gabriela Gutierrez
Fiona Nelson
Sofia Reyes

Rahul Channan, *Head Coach & Chief Instructor*
Jonard Corotan, *Chief Instructor*
Geovanni Gutierrez, *Chief Instructor*

Hunting Hills Lightning Bantam Football

Destin Anderson	Kellan Mandrusiak	Joe Hedlund, Assistant Coach
Noah Bootsma	Seth McLeod	Colin Lampard, Assistant Coach
Jordan Champney	Asher Olmstead	Jordan Lenius, Assistant Coach
Wylder Chaput	Jaxen Paradis	Konrad McDougall, Assistant Coach
David Clemens	Leon Plumley	Chad Murray, Assistant Coach
Liam Cuffe	Lucas Plumley	Jamie Plumley, Assistant Coach
Jack Daisley	Jackson Puckett	Skylar Rempel, Assistant Coach
Xander Diletzoy	Grayson Rowe	Jr Rivera, Assistant Coach
Hayden Foster	Jack Shafer	Kayden Walper, Assistant Coach
Killian French	Drayden Shaw	Reagan Niemeyer, Athletic Therapist/Trainer
Hunter Fulton	Kian Siemens	Sandy Johnson, Equipment Manager
Dax Green	Bethany Stevens	
Julio Gutierrez-Ruiz	Fennis Tang	
Chase Hall	Jacob Thorsteinson	
Ben Hawrylak	Hudson Voice	
Malachi Herbert	Chase Warnick	
Kolbie Hernberg	Seth Weir	
Kyler Hughes	Lennox Williams	
Caidyn Johnson	Josh Sorensen, Head Coach	
Kobin Lampard	Corey French, Assistant Coach	
Jax Lee		
Felix Lindsay		

Lindsay Thurber Raiders Senior Boys Volleyball

Josh Cho	Jasper Kennedy	Taye Savoury
Trent Deschnes	Daniel Lakhtorov	Gavin Watts
Tyson Dezutter	Jorryn Mckenzie	Travis Czainski, Head Coach
Wil Fidek	Lucas Moore	Terence McMullen, Assistant Coach
Caeden House	Koen Penninga	Kei McMullen, Manager
Blake Hughes	Hudson Penz	
Jamie Kelly	Grady Rodzinyak	

U15A Red Deer Chiefs Lacrosse

Anson Albrecht	Threan Painchaud	Darren Kinnear, Head Coach
Cooper Bowen	Gavin Roth	Lee Siemens, Assistant Coach
Liam Dow	Bronson Scott	Steve Albrecht, Assistant Coach
Tucker Istace	Lucas Seidel	Adam Roth, Trainer
Pierson Larocque	Kian Siemens	Melanie Roth, Manager
Gavin McEvoy	Tyrell Strauss	
Seth Mcleod	Dylan Turner	
Dominick Meeds	Mason Williams	
Hadin Nelson	Noah Zeigler	

Distinguished Voluntary Service:

Recognizing outstanding volunteers who have made a significant impact, enhanced the quality of life and/or implemented a significant positive change in Red Deer.

Marie & Howard Antoniuk
Gerry Campbell
Martin Fletcher
Kevin Hanrahan
Ian Ihme
Kiwanis Club of Red Deer

France Pajares
Franco Pajares
Sandy Polis & Teddy
Janet Sole
Audrey Thorhauer
Bobbie-Jo Van Heck

Community Builder:

Recognizing outstanding individuals or groups who have demonstrated special or unique qualities and who have made a difference in our community through leadership, dedication, innovation and creativity, with long term benefits.

Dieulita Datus-Hall
René-Osmani Diakité (posthumous)
Derek Fredeen

William Henderson
Bang Tran

Mayor's Special Award 2025

The highest honour given by The City of Red Deer, the Mayor's Special Award recognizes individuals and groups for humanitarianism, exceptional achievement, or an act of heroism or bravery.

Renae Clark

Renae has been a driving force behind youth baseball in Red Deer, serving as the General Manager of Red Deer Minor Baseball Association for 13 years and holding key roles on the Baseball Alberta board. Her leadership has seen registration grow from 250 to over 900 players, but her most meaningful contribution has been the creation of the Red Deer Minor Baseball Challenger Program; an inclusive initiative that provides children with physical and cognitive delays the opportunity to play baseball in a supportive environment. Passionate, selfless, and community-minded, Renae is known for her deep personal connection with every child in the program, going above and beyond to ensure each feels valued, right down to personalized jerseys that bring smiles to all involved. Her impact extends well beyond the field, inspiring everyone around her with her tireless dedication and humility.

Isabel Bolhuis

Isabel is a dedicated and compassionate volunteer whose commitment to education and community service has made a significant impact in Red Deer. Isabel has brought a rich multicultural background and teaching experience to her volunteer work with the Red Deer Public Library's Adult Literacy Program. Donating between 18 and 40 hours per month, she has supported 13 learners from diverse backgrounds helping them improve their language skills, build confidence and successfully integrate into Canadian society. Isabel's warm, respectful and encouraging nature allows her to build strong relationships with learners, many of whom are newcomers facing significant cultural and linguistic challenges. Isabel often goes the extra mile to support learners with urgent needs and real-life situations. Isabel's unwavering dedication, humility and belief in lifelong learning exemplify the spirit of distinguished voluntary service and have brought lasting value to the Red Deer community.

Elder Linda Ophus

Elder Linda is a respected Cree Elder, language keeper, and community leader whose generosity, strength, and spirit have left a lasting mark on Red Deer. Originally from Wabasca, she has made Red Deer her home and classroom—freely sharing her time, wisdom, and teachings with all who seek them. In 2024, she volunteered to teach Cree language lessons, driven by a deep passion for revitalizing Indigenous language and culture. Her gentle guidance has helped many reconnect with their roots and find healing through knowledge once taken away. A member of the Urban Aboriginal Voices Society and a regular volunteer with groups such as Red Deer Polytechnic, Clean Harbour Society, and The City of Red Deer, Linda embodies resilience and grace. Even when speaking on painful topics like Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit People—a tragedy she knows personally—she does so with courage and love. Elder Linda Ophus leads through kindness, truth, and quiet strength, and is a living example of reconciliation in action.