

October 2025

Meeting Minutes

Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: October 1, 2025

Start time: 12:00 pm

Meeting location: Beaverhill Lake Nature Centre & Museum, 5020 46 Ave, Tofield, AB

Meeting purpose: Monthly meeting

In attendance: Greg Litwin (Phoenix Realty), Barbara Ferguson (Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91), Sandy Brolly (Tofield food bank & Tofield Golden Club), Brenda Chehade (Town of Tofield & Tofield and Area Welcome Initiative), Yvonne Brown (Busy B, Culture Days & Boyle Street Project), Darren Erickson (Tofield Pharmacy), Colleen Hebert (ATB Financial), Elaine Taylor (Town of Tofield councillor candidate), Kari Janzen (Tofield Mercury), Christina Rehmann (Community Futures East Central Alberta), Serena Statler-Dorey (Dorey & Company), Chelsea Wiege (Queen of Hearts Pet Grooming)

1. Meeting called to order at 12:01 pm.
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Spotlight –Tofield/Ryley & Are Food Bank – Sandy Brolly
 - a. It's unfortunate we need to have a food bank, and lately it has been even worse than usual. In September of 2025 we hit a record number of hampers. We find that the biggest group is the working poor and seniors who are increasingly using the food bank.
 - b. A new program we started allows people to choose their own food, so items don't go to waste or get returned to the food bank. There's more dignity involved with that as well.
 - c. We're open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12pm, plus a Wednesday evening once a month for people who work and can't make it during the daytime. We also deliver to Ryley once a month.
 - d. We have a bread and soup program for those who run out of food on a monthly basis. They can come in on a weekly basis and get soup and bread.
 - e. Check best before dates before donating food items. There are some things that we can take beyond the best before date, but from a recent church collection I had some stuff from 2010 or 2015, and we can't take that.
 - f. Darren Erickson asked what is the best way to donate food items, in order to avoid showing up when clients are there. Brolly said there are drop off locations at IGA, the churches, the door is open on Tuesday afternoons when the Boyle Street Project volunteers are in there, or you can leave a message on the answering machine to schedule a time.
 - g. Greg Litwin said that the Christmas Hamper program also saw an increase in hampers and expect it again this year as well.
4. Spotlight –Tofield Winterfest – Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025 – Greg Litwin
 - a. We haven't got exact times yet. Breakfast with Santa, Stuff the Bus at IGA, Western Makers Market, Festival of Trees will be in the Tofield Arena meeting room, free skating, the parade, lighting of the tree, family dance, fireworks, and the Tofield Satellites have a home game.
 - b. We used to have 4-H turkey bingo the night before, but it will be one week later so that the Western market can set up in the hall on Friday.
5. Sandy Brolly moved the approval of agenda and Sept. 10, 2025 minutes as presented, Serena Statler-Dorey seconded. Carried.
6. Membership Director Review and Motion – Serena Statler-Dorey

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- a. The membership director keeps things organized, encourages new members, manages the website and social media. Christina Kovalenko is very busy, her business is doing well, but she had to step back.
 - b. The current budget for membership director is \$300 per month but I know that it did not cover all the hours worked. This is a position that is a \$500 a month position.
 - c. I did run the numbers. Obviously, an increase in the membership director budget would affect the profit overall. We need about \$12,000 a year to operate. The increased cost of a membership director position would not put us in the red.
 - d. Social media is a big part of the benefits of being a Chamber member. We want to show value for everybody and we would probably step up the hours for social media. We could do a quick video with your business; member shout-outs. The more I can schedule different posts throughout the week, the better for businesses. If I have to build the graphics, figure out the messaging, that takes a lot of time. Please either utilize someone to build these marketing pieces for you, or send me a business card that you want posted. The more that we can get the members in the community, the healthier and more vibrant it will be.
 - e. Membership Works. When people enter the form from the website, it submits the information to Membership Works and it creates, I'm going to say it loosely, a quasi-business card, and then that business card is projected onto the website. It's free, as long as you aren't over 50 members. The moment you bump over 50, it's \$420 and I believe that might be US dollars. I have to look for a solution, because I think that price is too high.
 - f. Greg Litwin moved that the membership director budget be increased to up to \$500 per month, Chelsea Stoltz seconded. Carried.
7. Upcoming events – Greg Litwin
- a. Small Business Week – third week of October – Oct. 19-25, 2025. We're going to do just a shout out this year in the paper and on social media. If we can get a committee together for next year, maybe we can do an event, but with the Trunk or Treat, All Candidates Forum, we've got a pretty busy October. We're going to keep bringing this up. If somebody wants to be part of that small business week executive or group, please let us know and we can get started on that for 2026.
 - b. Trunk or Treat & Family Bingo – Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. It's the Sunday before Halloween. Last year about 250 kids came. I always tell people: it's a dress rehearsal for your kids. It's really good for people who have mobility issues: no curbs, no stairs. People bring their pets, and it's a great family event. Time change to this year; everything's moved up one hour. Trunk or Treat is from noon to 2pm. Family Bingo, doors open at 1:30pm, bingo starts 2:30pm. Hosted by the Tofield Ag Society, but all proceeds go to the Promenade. We don't have non-charitable status or an AGLC license, so we can't advertise it saying all proceeds are going to Promenade, so we piggyback off of the Ag Society. Kids are welcome but need to be accompanied by an adult. They are allowed to buy one bingo card, and they can play all of them. There will be a candy guess, small concession, 50/50. We really could use some volunteers for the bingo.
 - c. All Candidates Forum – Tuesday, Oct. 7 – Tofield Community Hall – Greg Litwin - The moderator will be David Williamson of SDI Group. He's a past Chamber president. We have two candidates for mayor, eight for council, two for County of

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Beaver Division 1, and two for Battle River School Division, Ward 2. All 14 have responded for the forum. 6pm start. There will be four universal questions and one custom question for each group: mayor, council, Beaver County, and BRSD.

8. Updates
 - a. Promenade 2025 - Greg Litwin - Promenade is going to cost about \$12,000 a year to keep it free for the kids. Increases have come up on everything. Business sponsorship has been fantastic. We had lots of volunteers this year. A huge shout out to the community for putting on something like this, because it's pretty amazing.
 - b. Western Days 2025 – Greg Litwin - I'll have a better summary of how Western Days went next meeting, but it was one of the better years that they've had. Attendance was way up. It will be beginning of August again next year, Bull Bash Thursday, Promenade Friday, Rodeo Saturday and Sunday.
 - c. Tofield Satellites – Greg Liwin – The Tofield Satellites are back, part of the North Central Hockey League (NCHL). It's been 10 years but they're back and playing AA senior hockey. Letter from Chris Roy, president and general manager, said the Satellites were formed with a simple mission: bring people together. Whether it's on ice, stands, or in the community, we want to create something that town of Tofield and surrounding district can be proud of. We know how much the support of businesses and community leaders means. That's why I reached out to the Chamber to introduce ourselves, open the door to future collaboration, and to let you know we're not here just to play hockey, but to contribute to the spirit and growth of our town. We'd love the chance to connect with members of the Chamber and talk more about how the Satellites can be involved and give back.
9. Round Table
 - a. Chelsea Wiege (Queen of Hearts Pet Grooming) – Flea season is upon us. Treat and pre-treat your pets, even if it's just for September, October, November. Fleas really like the warmth, so they want to go into a lot of the furry guys, and they dive deep.
 - b. Serena Statler-Dorey (Dorey & Company) - I'm a business services provider. For the most part, I will work with big companies. My job is to help businesses be as efficient as possible, whether that means document control, automated processes, or bookkeeping. It all depends on what the company needs.
 - c. Christina Rehmann (Community Futures East Central Alberta) - Community Futures is a nonprofit funded through Prairie Economic Development Canada, and our mothership is in Wainwright. My role as Project Coordinator is hooking up businesses, chambers, and entrepreneurial minded folks with resources to help them achieve what they want to achieve. We've partnered with the Camrose public library offering four Canva sessions. Canva 101 for newbies and Advanced Canva for business owners. It's a free three-hour course and you're welcome to join us. We are also hosting a Business Symposium on Oct. 16. Doug Griffiths is our keynote speaker. He was an MLA out in this neck of the woods and he wrote a book called 13 Ways to Kill Your Community.
 - d. Kari Janzen (Tofield Mercury) – This week's edition has the town of Tofield candidate profiles. The next thing we'll be selling for is our tribute to the local fire department. With the mail strike, we've set up local pickup locations in Tofield, Ryley, and Holden.

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- e. Elaine Taylor (Running for Town of Tofield Council) - I have lived in Tofield for four years, and I've been retired for the last two years. I really love this town, and I really want to make a difference here, to be involved. Last year, I started volunteering at Busy B two days a week, and I love it there. I decided this year that I would try to become part of the town council and help that way. I've been out pounding the streets, meeting people, hearing what they want changed and what they like about the town, and I've got a long list of both.
- f. Colleen Hebert (ATB Financial) – We are also affected by the Canada Post strike, so if you need, we can print of your statements for you. We are having renovations starting in October.
- g. Darren Erickson (Tofield Pharmacy and running for Town of Tofield Mayor) - I've been in Tofield since 1988 when I bought a drugstore, and I've been dispensing and working since. It isn't one person that runs the town or runs the runs these committees, so we have to get a good team together for council. I really want to help the town in the next four years, to maybe give some guidance. I hope I can make Tofield grow a little bit.
- h. Yvonne Brown (Busy B) - Culture Days has just happened, Brenda Chehade is the chair of Culture Days, because the Health Foundation is our banker, so to speak, when our government grants come in, because we don't have a bank account. We have an AHS representative, Katherine Gagnon, and she called me each day for three days afterwards, she was overwhelmed with our presentation. Bruderheim Museum is unique – it has only items made in Germany. Busy B set aside anything made in Germany and we presented it to the Bruderheim Museum during Culture Days. This year we changed the time of the event from 4pm to 7pm, and it improved our attendance.
- i. Brenda Chehade (Town of Tofield councillor/Welcome Basket) - I'm running for re-election, so I really hope to get re-elected. It will be exciting to have new faces within the council. Being on council is a fun thing to do, and it's a really great way to give back to your community. Welcome Basket - Greg Litwin has agreed to come out with me to drop off baskets.
- j. Sandy Brolly (Tofield food bank/Tofield Golden Club) – Our president Ralph Petersen and his wife Kathleen are moving to Vegreville, so we're having a potluck followed by our meeting next week.
- k. Barbara Ferguson (Tofield Legion) – Darts on Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm. \$20 for the season, which is September to May. Next meat draw is Oct. 18, doors open 1pm, starts at 2pm, ends by 4pm. Poppy campaign kicks off on Friday, Oct. 24. We solicit funds for veterans in need. There are people who think that we use it for a big party. No. It's governed by the government and every penny has to be accounted for. It's a special fund to help people who have served our country. The price of the poppies that are supplied only by Dominion, is over 10 cents each. On Nov. 11, we have a service at the community hall. It starts right around 11, followed by a soup and sandwich at the Legion.

Next meeting is on November 5, 2025 at the Beaverhill Museum and Nature Centre.

Tofield-Ryley and Area Food Bank

FOOD CHOICE HAMPER PROGRAM

WHY THE NEW PROGRAM

- The Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in hamper requested each month.
- Our Client Information Program is now under the umbrella of Food Banks Canada.
- Updated paperwork and consents are required, twice each year fiscal year. No exceptions.
- Why did we choice FOOD CHOICE? We feel that this program:
 - **Is more dignified:** Clients can choose what they need, which can help address the stigma around accessing food banks.
 - **Is more helpful for people with dietary restrictions:** Clients can choose foods that meet their medical, cultural, or religious needs.
 - **Increases access to healthy food:** Clients can choose a wider variety of fruits and vegetables.
 - **Reduces waste:** Clients only shop for what they need, so less food goes to waste.
 - **Creates a more positive experience:** Clients and volunteers report positive responses to choice models.
 - **Can foster social connection:** Clients can build trust and meaningful relationships.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- On your first hamper pick-up, please give us an extra 10 minutes of your time as we need you to fill in a new Client Intake Form and sign a Client Understanding Form.
PLEASE NOTE: These forms will be available on our website (trafoodbank.ca) if you would like to print them off and fill them in before you come. We will still need the following:
Please bring:
 - Your photo ID
 - Alberta Health Care card or Birth Certificate for other household members
 - A document that supplies us with your physical address (e.g. current utility bill)
- If this information is not provided at your first visit after March 2, 2020, you will be given an initial hamper, HOWEVER, you will not be eligible to obtain further service until this information is supplied.

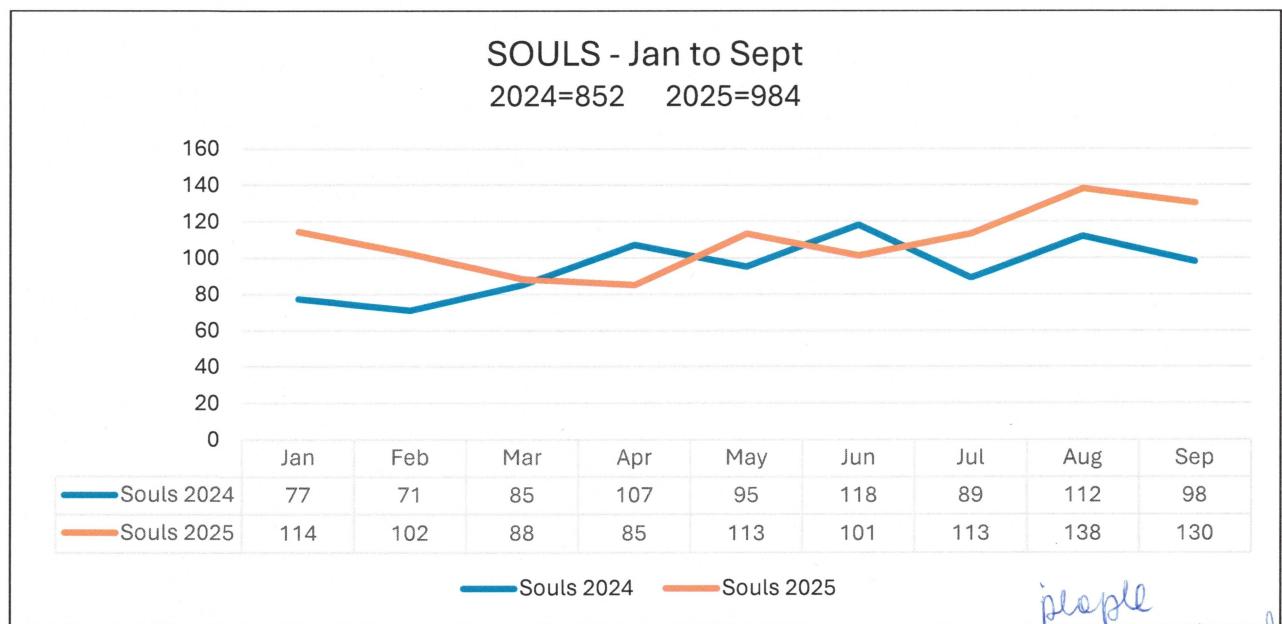
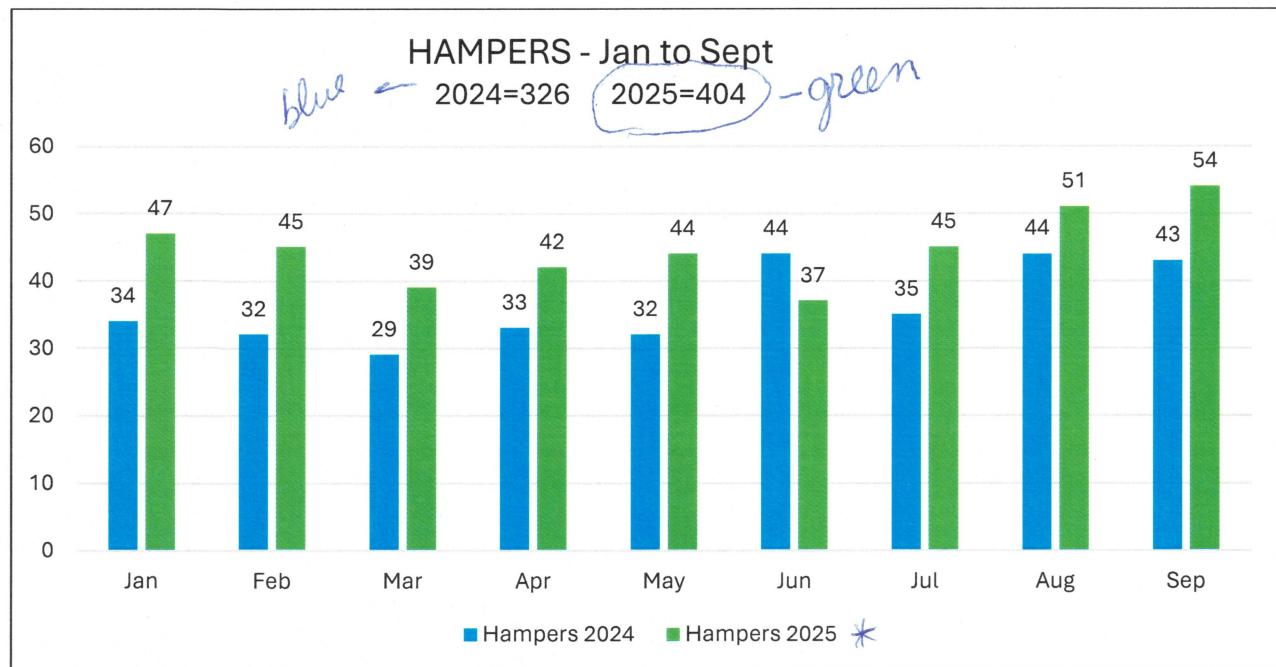
PARAMETERS OF THE PROGRAM

- Clients are eligible for one (1) HAMPER per MONTH per HOUSEHOLD.
- To schedule a hamper pick-up, you **MUST** call by 9 pm the day before and leave a message.
- A volunteer will return your call and schedule a pick-up time.
- Please bring your own bags or boxes to pack your hamper.
- If you call the day of the hamper pick-up, you will be scheduled for the next available hamper day.
- **Walk-ins** may be given soup and bread only, once a week between their Hamper days, and their hamper pick-up will be scheduled for their next eligible hamper day.
- Pick up times are to be strictly adhered to out of courtesy to others using the program.
- Updated paperwork and consents are required, twice each year fiscal year. No exceptions.

On behalf of the board and volunteers of the Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank, we

Thank You

for your understanding and cooperation.



Bread & Soup

| | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----|------|------|
| Jan | 2 | 7 |
| Feb | 2 | 3 |
| Mar | 1 | 6 |
| Apr | 1 | 1 |
| May | 4 | 1 |
| Jun | 2 | 5 |
| Jul | 3 | 5 |
| Aug | 3 | 6 |
| Sep | 0 | 6 |
| | 18 | 40 |



Donations

The operations of the Tofield – Ryley & Area Food Bank are funded by generous food and financial donations from the community, and grants from local organizations and businesses.

Financial

By Mail:

Box 4, Tofield, AB T0B 4J0
or at the Food Bank

In Tofield:

Through the mail drop slot in the Food Bank door.

In Ryley:

Ryley Village Office, Beaver County Office or McPherson Library.

*Tofield Ryley and Area Food Bank is a registered charity and can issue tax receipts for cash donations.
Charitable Number: 808690051 RT0001*

Food

Drop off at the Food Bank

Tuesday or Friday from 10 am to noon.

Or call 780-662-3511 and a volunteer will return your call to arrange a drop-off time.

Food can also be left in the bin at IGA.

To donate garden produce

Please call the Food Bank at 780-662-3511 to make arrangements for pick up.

IMPORTANT:

The Food Bank **CANNOT** accept home preserves or baking due to Provincial regulations. Government inspected meat is acceptable.

To all of the individuals, businesses and organizations who have generously donated food and funds to our Food Bank...

Thank You!

Volunteering & Service Area

Become A Volunteer!

Volunteers are the foundation on which we have built this organization since 1995 and we are very grateful for the many volunteers who support our organization. We could not exist without the loyalty, dedication, and support of volunteers, some of who have been with us for over 10 years.

Volunteering has no age-limits, your energy and commitment is enough. It is a great way to contribute to the community.

Our volunteers provide essential services in many ways:

- Assembling hampers
- Sorting and shelving food donations
- Sorting shelved items by date
- Breakdown and repackaging of bulk items
- Maintaining the community garden
- Housekeeping

If you are interested in volunteering, please call 780-662-3511 and our Volunteer coordinator will get back to you within a few days.

TRA Food Bank Service Area

Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank serves the following areas of Beaver County West:

- South to Camrose County
- West to Strathcona County
- North to Lamont County
- East up to but not including Holden.

Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank

5204 50 Street

Box 4

Tofield, Alberta T0B 4J0

(780) 662-3511

www.trafoodbank.ca

Open: Tuesdays and Fridays
10 am to 12 noon.



Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank

Eliminating hunger
...together



Need Assistance?

To Request a Hamper

If you require a food hamper, please contact the Food Bank at (780) 662-3511 prior to 9 PM on Monday or Thursday. Phone messages are checked regularly.

On your initial visit, you will be asked:

- to provide a proof of residency with document that contains your physical address (not box number), such as a rental agreement, or utility bill;
- the number of people in your household; and
- for your Alberta Health Care card or other government ID for each person in your household.

Our hamper program is a Food Choice program where clients are escorted through our 7 sections by a host and can choose up to a specific number of items in each section according to the size of the household. We have found that through this method, there is less food waste and our monthly food costs have been reduced considerably.

Hamper food choices includes:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • Soup | • Cereal |
| • Bread | • Ground beef |
| • Margarine | • Peanut butter |
| • Canned beans | • Potatoes |
| • Canned vegetables | • Carrots (if available) |
| • Canned fruit | • Fresh fruit (if available) |
| • Canned meat | • Instant noodles |
| • Pasta | • Juice |
| • Rice | |

PLEASE NOTE:

- As the Food Bank provides a short-term solution for those in need, please note that food hampers are intended to last 4 to 5 days.
- Hampers are distributed per household. If you are sharing a residence with anyone, please let us know.
- Thanks to very generous pet food stores and our community, we now have a Pet Foodbank with food, leashes, collars, etc., for your furry family members.

Food Bank Facts

Need Knows No Season

The crisis of hunger is as close as your doorstep. People who may never have thought they would be incapable of feeding their families can all too quickly be in a situation of great need. Whether the need is caused by economic factors or a family emergency, the Tofield-Ryley & Area Food Bank is working to ease a problem of hunger that is greater every year.

Who are the hungry? The working poor, seniors on fixed incomes, and single parents are some of the people who depend on emergency food supplies. People with disabilities, the unemployed and the homeless (yes, there are homeless people in Tofield) often have no other resource when they are in need. Many of these people depend on the food bank several times throughout the year.

Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make. You don't have to go it alone.



We are proud members of:



About Us

The Food Bank's Role

- To provide an opportunity for the fortunate to share.
- To provide an efficient system of food collection from churches, individuals, businesses, organizations and food suppliers.
- To operate a central facility for the storage of food collected
- To arrange distribution of donated food to individuals and families in need, along with emergency lunches for all schools in our service area
- To take a role in educating the public about the needs in our community
- To affiliate with provincial and national food bank associations in an effort to share and distribute food and information related to poverty.

Our **VISION**:
*Sharing Food,
Feeding Hope,
Strengthening
Community,
with Dignity!*

Our **MISSION**

is that we can live in a community where everyone has food security. Individuals in this community will avail themselves of all resources available, including their own, to attain food security.