

November 2025

Meeting Minutes

Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: November 5, 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), Kari Janzen (Tofield Mercury), Christina Rehmann (Community Futures East Central Alberta), Mary E. Taylor (Tofield Historical Society), Francis Gladue Jr. (community member), Lorraine Lindberg (community member), Stacey Rude (Maple Park Farm), Yvonne Brown (Busy B, Boyle Street Project, & Go East), Sandy Brolly (Tofield food bank), Jennifer Durrant (Music Lessons), Tonya Davison (Tonya Davison Photography), Barbara Ferguson (Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91), Brenda Chehade (Town of Tofield & Tofield and Area Welcome Initiative).

1. Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm.
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Spotlight –Jennifer Durrant Music Lessons
 - a. I was born in Edmonton, raised in Campbell River, BC. I have been passionate about music from a young age. I did the first leg of post secondary at Vancouver Island University in Powell River. I moved back to Alberta in 2001, had a son in 2006, and soon after returned to school at Grant MacEwan University for more music studies. I moved to Tofield in 2015.
 - b. I always wanted to be a music teacher. I have been teaching and operating my private lessons business for 14 years. I teach students of all ages and skill levels.
 - c. I offer private lessons in piano, guitar, voice, and music theory, tailored to each student's goals and abilities. Lessons are available to any age and level of ability, held at my studio at the Tofield United Church. I also have access to the sanctuary and basement for group classes and recitals. My lessons clients include children, adults, and seniors from the Tofield area and surrounding communities and all over the world online.
 - d. I would like to expand to offer group classes and workshops. I hope to grow my private teaching client list, but eventually want to partner with or hire other teachers to offer even more music opportunity to Tofield. I had the goal of 45 students, and I'm at 40.
 - e. I've contributed musical performances to many local events, school programs, and charitable initiatives, helping foster a love of music throughout the community. I also offer one Scholarship Student opportunity per school year, providing lessons free of charge to a promising and dedicated student whose family may not be able to afford lessons.
 - f. I would like to expand on performance opportunities for my students in the local area. Eg. Music festival (competition), local establishments, and events.
4. Spotlight – Tofield Legion Remembrance Day – Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025 – Barbara Ferguson
 - a. We're in the middle of the shortest poppy campaign ever. It always starts on the last Friday of October, which landed on the 31st this year. We encourage you to donate in the physical poppy boxes around town. The Dominion has introduced an online poppy, but those donations have no way to be earmarked for your local veterans. Nickels and dimes don't cut it for a poppy donation anymore – the poppies cost us \$0.125 apiece.
 - b. Our Remembrance Day service starts at 10:45am at the Tofield Community Hall. The parade will leave the Legion at 10:30am.
5. Spotlight – Welcome Basket – Brenda Chehade



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- a. The welcome basket is a Chamber of Commerce initiative. I've delivered over 300 baskets in the last seven years, and it's a great program. I bring a bag full of goodies including Chamber member swag. The binder has three sections: information about services in the community, things to do, and Chamber member advertising, which is totally free, being part of your membership fee.
 - b. Since being reelected to Tofield Council, I am no longer on the Welcome Initiative Committee and Jennifer Durrant will be taking over from me.
6. Spotlight – Christmas Hamper Program – Greg Litwin
 - a. Dec. 21 & 22 are the days that we will pack the hampers and need the most volunteers for. Dec. 23 will be pick up and delivery day. Last year we had 115 hampers. The intake at the food bank is up this year so we could be expecting more this year. Angel trees will go up on Nov. 12, these are local kids gift requests. We work with FCSS who coordinates the hamper requests.
7. Sandy Brolly moved the approval of agenda and Oct. 1, 2025 minutes as presented, Yvonne Brown seconded. Carried.
8. Upcoming events – Greg Litwin
 - a. Winterfest – Saturday, Nov. 29 –Greg Litwin - Breakfast with Santa at the Legion from 8am to 11am, Western Makers Market at the Community Hall from 10am to 3pm, Festival of Trees and kids crafts at the arena meeting room from 10am to 3pm, family skate will be from 12 to 2pm. Chili and a bun at the Tofield Golden Club, 11am to 1pm, Stuff the Bus at IGA, that's part of the Christmas hamper program, from 10am to 6pm. Main street parade starts at 5:30pm, tree lighting is immediately following the parade. There's a family dance following the tree lighting, so around 6pm. The Tofield Satellites senior AA hockey game at the arena starts at 8pm, and fireworks at the fairgrounds will start around 8:30pm.
 - b. Easter Egg Hunt – Sat. April 4, 2026
9. Updates
 - a. Trunk or Treat & Family Bingo – Greg Liwin – We had about 250 kids and about 16 trunks. Always the Sunday before Halloween. Proceeds from the Family Bingo go towards Promenade. Numbers were down in attendance. We got lots of volunteers, which was good to see. Sunday afternoon maybe isn't the best time for the bingo – we may have to revisit that.
 - b. Promenade – Aug. 7, 2026 – Greg Litwin – Looking at a budget of about \$12-13,000.
 - c. Western Days – Aug. 6-9, 2026
 - d. Small Business Week – Oct. 18-24, 2026 – Greg Litwin – In the past we've done everything from business mixers at the Legion to Dueling Pianos at the hall. It would be good to get a committee in place by January. This year we did a shout out in the newspaper and social media.
10. Round Table
 - a. Brenda Chegade (Town of Tofield councillor/Welcome Basket) – Ongoing, I will be helping Jenn. If anyone wants to give me their information to add to the welcome basket, I greatly appreciate that. I'm on Town Council and have been voted in as deputy mayor.
 - b. Barbara Ferguson (Tofield Legion) – If you know any veterans, let us know. Our territory for the poppy campaign and service

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to veterans covers a large area, from Tofield to highway 21 and highway 16 almost to the Leduc County border.

- c. Tonya Davison (Tonya Davison Photography) – I've been on medical leave from my main job in the oilfield since July. I might have to retire because of the medical condition I'm dealing with so I'm trying to grow my photography business. 2026 calendars are available.
- d. Jennifer Durrant (Music Lessons and Town Councillor) – Music lessons and performances are available, just reach out.
- e. Sandy Brolly (Tofield food bank) – Stuff the Bus is coming up. The food bank still requires a lot of donations. Please check best before dates. We can't accept anything beyond two years.
- f. Yvonne Brown (Busy B) – Busy B has unique options for Christmas gifts. The Go East AGM is later this month. The Golden Club has been kept very busy with funeral lunches.
- g. Stacey Rude (Maple Park Farm) – We've wrapped up our fall festivals. We have some upcoming workshops before Christmas but don't advertise those before Remembrance Day.
- h. Lorraine Lindberg (Community member) – My background is advocacy. I was a foster parent for 25 years. Advocacy for children, youth, bioparents, indigenous families.
- i. Francis Gladue Jr. - (Community member) – I'm a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation, which is about four hours north of here. I've been an advocate, since I was 16, for elders, seniors, and veterans.
- j. Christina Rehmann (Community Futures East Central Alberta) – In 2026 we're looking to have a business week symposium. We'd like to make it a regional symposium so that instead of just holding it in Camrose, there would also be satellite opportunities for communities to view together. I'm going to start finding people to form a board so that we can make something happen for next year.
- k. Kari Janzen (Tofield Mercury) – Shop local is up next, where local businesses advertise their Christmas sales in a four week advertising commitment. Then our big Christmas supplement is when we approach all local businesses to see if they'd like to put an ad the paper to thank their customers and wish them a merry Christmas. We're also doing the fill the tree fundraiser for the food bank.

Next meeting is on December 3, 2025 at the Beaverhill Museum and Nature Centre, and will feature Chamber treasurer Serena Statler-Dorey of Dorey & Company who will provide a tutorial on Canva.

Jennifer Durrant

Music Lessons & Services

Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce Presentation Nov 5/25

About Me

- **The Journey:** I was born in Edmonton, Alberta. We moved to Campbell River, BC in 1990. I spent my school years there and did the first leg of post secondary at Vancouver Island University (then Malaspina) in Powell River on the sunshine coast. I moved back to Alberta in 2001. I had a son in 2006 and soon after returned to school at Grant MacEwan University for more music studies. I moved to Tofield in 2015. I raised my son here (He still lives here). I have a busy teaching studio and regularly perform at events in the area.
- **Entrepreneurial Background:** I was raised in an entrepreneurial home. My parents owned a fire protection business, specializing commercial kitchen equipment. They later opened and operated "Island Inkjet" in Bonnie Doon Mall in Edmonton for many years, where I worked for them as the manager.
- **Background in Music:** I have been passionate about music from a young age, originally inspired by my grandfather. I've dedicated my life to learning, performing, and teaching. I began piano at age five and later picked up the flute and singing during my school days. Campbell River was a great place to grow as a musician, with lots of chances to learn and perform. After high school, I studied both classical and jazz voice, and along the way, I taught myself guitar, ukulele, tin whistle, and harmonica.
- **Professional Experience:** My journey includes formal, post-secondary music education, hundreds of performances, notably the "Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival", the NHL Hall of Fame, the MacEwan showcase band, and many, many others. I have been teaching and operating my private lessons business for 14 years. I teach students of all ages and skill levels. I also have a strong background in office administration and retail management.
- **Community Involvement:** I've contributed musical performances to many local events (Golden Club, Legion, Church, Snowgoose festival, AB Culture Days), school programs, and charitable initiatives, helping foster a love of music throughout the community. I also offer one Scholarship Student opportunity per school year. Providing lessons free of charge to a promising and dedicated student who's family may not be able to afford lessons.

Current Business Overview

- **Music Lessons:** I offer private lessons in piano, guitar, voice, and music theory, tailored to each student's goals and abilities. Lessons are available to any age and level of ability.
- **Studio Location & Equipment:** Lessons and rehearsals are held at my studio at the Tofield United Church. From there I also facilitate online lessons. It's well-equipped to inspire learning and creativity. I also have access to the sanctuary and basement for group classes and recitals.
- **Performance Services:** I perform at private functions, corporate events, community gatherings, and seniors living homes providing live music that enhances special occasions. I host and emcee events like weddings, fundraisers and award ceremonies. I also provide background music or "DJ" and PA equipment for events.
- **Clientele:** My lessons clients include children, adults, and seniors from the Tofield area and surrounding communities and all over the world online. My performance clients include many seniors' lodges, community programmers and event organisers, wedding planners and personal clients.
- **Current Partnerships:** I have a great relationship with local seniors housing and LTC and perform regularly at their facilities. My involvement in the community has led to a lot of growth on both sides of my business.

Business Goals

1. **Expand Lesson Offerings:** I would like to expand to offer group classes and workshops. I hope to grow my private teaching client list, but eventually want to partner with, or hire other teachers to offer even more music opportunity to Tofield. This could offer lessons on instruments that I don't teach and also still have lessons available as my schedule fills up. I would like to expand on performance opportunities for my students in the local area. Ex: Music festival, local establishments and events.
2. **Leverage Technology:** Further develop online lessons and digital resources to accommodate remote learners and busy families. I would also like to bring more technology (Bluetooth, AI, Voice print) into the studio to keep up with the times
3. **Grow Performance Opportunities:** Partner with local businesses and organizations to bring live music (Me and my students) to more community events.
4. **Enhance Community Engagement:** Expand on my scholarship programs for underserved youth, adults and seniors, making music education accessible to all. Continue my community events: Watch and listen parties, recitals, karaoke etc.

5. **Contribute to Local Arts & Culture:** Support the vibrancy of Tofield's arts scene by nurturing new talent and collaborating with local musicians and businesses.

The Vision

- **A VIBRANT AND ACTIVE arts and culture community in Tofield.**
- A local music festival for competition and performance opportunities.
- My teaching studio full and expanded to offer a full range of musical education and performance opportunities.
- A number #1 hit record on the radio. 🎵
- A future filled with musicians and people who are passionate about the arts.

Thank You!

I appreciate the opportunity to share my passion and vision. I look forward to collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce and fellow community members to create a brighter, more musical future for Tofield.

Contact me anytime for more information about music lessons or having me perform at your next event. Let music and the arts enhance your experience.

Jennifer Durrant, Music Teacher & Professional Musician

jennduffmusic@gmail.com

780-906-5366

Box 1239, Tofield Alberta

www.missjennmusic.mymusicstaff.com

Social Media: Miss Jenn The Music Teacher on Facebook and Instagram

SAVE THE DATE
November 29, 2025

WINTERFEST

**WELCOME AND EMBRACE THE WINTER SEASON BY JOINING
THE TOWN OF TOFIELD AND PARTNERS FOR
WINTERFEST 2025!**

This wonderful annual event will include:

Residential and Commercial Decorating Contest - **Begins earlier in the month**

Breakfast with Santa at the Tofield Legion - **8:00am to 11:00am**

The Western Makers Christmas Market at the Community Hall - **10:00am to 3:00pm**

Festival of Trees, Kids Crafts, & Family Skating at the Arena - **10:00am to 3:00pm**
(family skate portion from **12:00pm to 2:00pm**)

Chilli and a Bun at the Tofield Golden Club - **11:00am to 1:00pm**

Stuff the Bus at the IGA - **1:00am to 6:00pm**

Main Street Parade - **5:30pm**

Tree Lighting - **Immediately following** the Parade

Family Dance - **Immediately following** the Tree Lighting

Tofield Satellites Hockey Game at the Arena - **8:00pm**

Fireworks at the Arena Grounds - **Approximately 8:30pm**

**PLEASE NOTE, EVENT TIMES ARE SUBJECT
TO A SLIGHT CHANGE - EVENT DEPENDENT.**