

January 2026

Meeting Minutes

Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce

Meeting date: January 7, 2026

Start time: 12:00 pm

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

Meeting purpose: Monthly meeting

In attendance: Kari Janzen (Tofield Mercury), Greg Litwin (Phoenix Realty Group), Chelsea Wiege (Queen of Hearts Pet Grooming), Barbara Ferguson (Royal Canadian Legion Branch 91), Brie Schmidt (Tofield 4-H Beef & Multi Club), Curtis Schmidt (Tofield 4-H Beef & Multi Club), Kevin Smook (Home-Time Realty and Beaver County), Yvonne Brown (Busy B and Boyle Street Project), Jennifer Durrant (Town of Tofield & Tofield and Area Welcome Initiative), Brenda Chehade (Town of Tofield & Tofield and Area Welcome Initiative), Stacey Rude (Maple Park Farm), Calvin Andringa (Tofield Alliance Church), Tonya Davison (Tonya Davison Photography), Amarjeet Kairon (Moonshine Café and Beaver County Community Adult Learning Program), Serena Statler-Dorey (Dorey & Company).

1. Meeting called to order at 12:03 pm.
2. Welcome and Introduction
3. Spotlight – Curtis & Brie Schmidt – Tofield 4-H Beef & Multi Club
 - a. This is the 81st year of 4-H in Tofield. Projects this year include beef, poultry, and woodworking. Kids range in age from 7 and can be a member until 21. Annual show and sale Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at Tofield Arena. Show and judging starts at 10:30am, sale at 7pm.
 - b. 4-H has somewhat died off in the last few years. It always fluctuates, families come and go, but we're looking for way that we can promote these kids and agriculture.
 - c. For beef projects, the year begins with weigh-in day. Calves got shots and tags Oct. 18 at Spruyt Farms. Members then take it home, feed it, tame it, and become its best friend.
 - d. Monthly meetings are kid-run. They fill the executive roles and follow official procedure. If anything's changing, there needs to be a motion, a seconder, and it gets voted on. All members are required to participate in public speaking, community service, work on their projects, and fill in their record books. We'll do farm tours, have a Christmas party, at the end of January we're going to the Tofield Lodge to play games with the seniors, and our club public speaking event will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Tofield Alliance Church.
 - e. What we need most from the community is support on sale day. It's difficult, because we're asking people to buy a steer and that's going to cost a lot of money, and not everybody has a freezer that can handle that much meat. We're trying to promote the idea that people can partner with others to buy a steer and split up the beef.
 - f. Serena Statler-Dorey suggested that a regular presence on social media with updates on individual projects could inform the community and warm them up to the idea of attending the sale.
 - g. Chelsea Wiege asked if people are required to take the steer they purchase home with them. Curtis Schmidt said if you plan on buying one, schedule it with your butcher, but if they're full or it doesn't work out for whatever reason, a lot of the time the animals will go back home, and the kids will take care of them until they can be butchered.
 - h. Turkey bingo went over well, but they are undecided at this point about the spring ground beef bingo due to cost of running it, and last year's return wasn't great.

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- i. Kevin Smook suggested the club could have a table at the Snow Goose Festival trade show, which is three days before their show and sale. Yvonne Brown suggested the club could have a table at Culture Days in September.
- 4. Chelsea Wiege moved the approval of agenda and Dec. 3, 2025 minutes as presented, Yvonne Brown seconded. Carried.
- 5. Chamber executive elections – Greg Litwin
 - a. At the December meeting it was mentioned that the four existing members would allow their name to stand for one more year. (Greg Litwin – president, Chelsea Stoltz – vice president, Serena Statler-Dorey – treasurer, Kari Janzen – secretary). We put it on social media, and we haven't had any other people inquire. Greg called for nominations three times. Nominations ceased. Positions remain status quo.
- 6. Discussion item – Tent/Banner/Tablecloth (handout) – Serena Statler-Dorey
 - a. Often when the Chamber puts on an event, it's not obvious that is the Chamber doing it. An aluminum framed tent, as seen in the handout (10x10 600d polyester \$1295.95), could act as a home base for information during Promenade. At the Easter egg hunt, instead of people getting things from an unnamed vehicle, the tent could set up in the park, it's got the logo and nobody doubts who's putting on the event.
 - b. Although the quote from Twisted Edge may seem high, looking at other pricing for the same product, it's actually not bad. You can add full size or half walls but the minimum we need, in my opinion, is the cover with our logo, so there's a central meeting space.
 - c. Kevin Smook asked how often a financial update is provided, and how much money the Chamber has to put towards a tent. Serena Statler-Dorey said financials are on the agenda quarterly and following Chamber events. From memory, she couldn't recall the exact balance, but assured members that there was at least \$17,000 in the bank. She also said that this time she forgot to print off a report, so even if financials aren't on the agenda, she often has the information with her at the meeting. Yvonne Brown suggested that financials be on the agenda for every meeting.
 - d. Calvin Andringa suggested that the tent could be offered as a free or low-rent perk for Chamber members to use as well.
 - e. Calvin Andringa asked where the tent would be stored. The Chamber's pull up banner is at Greg's house, so it was quickly decided by the members that that would be an excellent location for the tent as well.
 - f. Stacey Rude asked if it could save costs to not have logos everywhere. As somebody who's done lots of markets, Rude said she thinks walls are essential for being outside, but if the logos are on the top of the tent, walls wouldn't also need logos unless you also want one on the inside back wall. Serena Statler-Dorey suggested that a tablecloth with the logo and the top of the tent with the logos would suffice, and if and when the Chamber wants a back wall, plain or otherwise, that could also be done.
 - g. Calvin Andringa moved that the Chamber executive be authorized to spend a maximum of \$2200 for necessary promotional items including the tent and tablecloth. Yvonne Brown seconded. Carried.
 - h. Kevin Smook said that in the June 2025 minutes a motion was made to have Vanita Eglauer contact Cordell Sihlis of Northern Graphics to get a quote for a banner, and to authorize the

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executive board to spend up to \$1,000 for it, and asked what became of that. Serena Statler-Dorey said that it didn't happen; Vanita didn't reach out. Twisted Edge became a member, Northern Graphics is not, and it was also later determined that the overhead street banner was not our best option, and no money was spent.

- i. Kevin Smook moved to rescind motion 7.b under agenda item 'Chamber banner' from the June 2025 meeting. Brenda Chehade seconded. Carried.
- 7. Updates – Greg Litwin
 - a. Christmas Hamper Program – 115 hampers this year, basically same as last year. Incredible support from businesses, communities, organizations, and individuals. Monies that came in was fantastic. A real big plus this year was this Tofield Satellites hockey club's toy drive; that filled a lot of gift items for the angel tree. Packing went very well on Dec. 22; lots of community members came out to help.
- 8. Upcoming events – Chelsea Wiege and Greg Litwin
 - a. Easter Egg Hunt – Sat. April 4, 2026 – We partner with the Sour Moose for this event. Christian Kovalenko has asked if perhaps the Saturday before Easter, March 28, would work better so as not to conflict with other Easter events. The members discussed that since the Easter Hunt has always been the Saturday of Easter weekend, people may have made plans for that already, and decided to keep the date April 4. Last year had 100 pounds of foil wrapped chocolate eggs, more needed for this year. Golden Club wasn't spacious enough for crafts and cake following hunt; may have to look at renting community hall or Tofield Arena meeting room. Volunteers needed to scatter eggs, help crafts, serve cake, etc.
 - b. Promenade – Fri. Aug. 7, 2026 – We have a promenade committee in place, so we'll start to work on that. Rides and other attractions have gone way up the last few years. We'll keep plugging away and hope we can keep it free for the kids.
 - c. Western Days – Aug. 6-9, 2026 – no discussion
 - d. Small Business Week – Oct. 18-24, 2026 – Looking to put a committee together to plan something for small business week. Chelsea Wiege said it's really important to showcase small businesses in Tofield. We haven't hosted anything the last few years but in the past we've done everything from a trade show at the Legion to Dueling Pianos at the hall. Kevin Smook said there may be an opportunity to work together with Beaver County to celebrate small business week. Tabled for now.
 - e. Trunk or Treat & Family Bingo - Sun. Oct. 25, 2026 – The bingo had a real downturn in attendance this year. We're finding that a Sunday afternoon bingo just doesn't work as well as, say, a Friday night. Kevin Smook suggested that since the trunk or treat is incredibly well received, maybe the event should be scaled back to focus on what really works. Greg Litwin said then \$750-\$1000 from the bingo needs to be raised somewhere else. Serena Statler-Dorey suggested the events be split up, and the bingo hosted at a different time. Greg Litwin said they would have to be careful not to interfere with the 4-H bingos. Tabled for now.
 - f. Round Table – moved to next meeting due to lack of time.

Next meeting is on February 4, 2026 at the Beaverhill Museum and Nature Centre.