



BEAUMONT & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.beaumontagsociety.com

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

2025 – A Year of Change!

2025 saw several significant changes for Beaumont & District Agricultural Society (BADAS). The biggest of these was the shift in personnel managing BADAS. At the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January, Bruce Walker stepped down as General Manager, handing the position to Terra Pombert. Terra resigned from the Board of Directors to take the GM position. Bruce was elected to the Board, taking the final year of Terra's term. Bruce was also elected as Treasurer.

Terra can be contacted at admin@beaumontagsociety.com, Bruce at treasurer@beaumontagsociety.com. Over the intervening months Terra and Bruce have worked at transitioning the duties of General Manager and of Treasurer.

Several new projects, activities, and events were initiated in 2025. Many of these will continue in 2026. Read on to find out more information on facilities like the Urban Agriculture Centre (UAC), events hosted by BADAS in 2025, and programs like the 'Nature Camps' and 'Seniors Connect'.

Continue reading for info on these and other 2025 stories. Consider this Newsletter as the annual report for BADAS. Then attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 25 where you can learn more and add to new BADAS stories.

HAPPY NEW YEAR – ALL THE BEST IN 2026!

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Fairground Development & Planning

URBAN AGRICULTURE CENTRE (UAC)

The Grand Opening of BADAS' Urban Agriculture Centre (UAC) was held during the new 'Spring Kickoff' event on May 17th. To refresh your memory, the UAC includes a 24' x 24' passive solar greenhouse with tool library; a food forest windbreak with over 200 trees, shrubs, and flowers; and space in which to host various activities and smaller events.

Beaumont Men's Shed Association stepped up to complete the interior of the passive solar greenhouse, which now has shelves for storage and a work bench to repair equipment. 2026 will see this building used daily as a gathering and communication hub, in support of programs, plant sales, and gardeners. In March 2026, we will begin growing in the garden boxes inside and will start seedlings for our plant sale fundraiser.



Hopes were high for renting the UAC and large tent for summer events, but a major windstorm reaching 130 kph destroyed the tent. We are grateful to Clearwater Valley Pony Club for lending us their tent to use for summer camps and seniors' programs.

The UAC piloted our first ever summer camp – 'Fluttermice and Dumbledores' Nature Camp. 11 youth signed up and it was a huge success. The kids aged 5-8 walked away with a ton of knowledge about bats, bees, and native plants. A huge thank you to Deni Cameron who championed this program and designed most of the educational materials.

In 2026 we hope to continue with rentals and summer camps, and to introduce school programs. However, these plans depend on receiving the Canada Summer jobs grant to support staffing needs.

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Finance Committee & Finances

The Finance Committee oversees budgeting, grant applications, and reviews financial activity for BADAS. A financial report with draft FY2026 budget is presented on page 5.

REVENUE: Operating income for BADAS varied greatly over the years, depending on events, grants, and Casino income. Last fiscal (2025), BADAS recorded higher revenue than the previous 8-year average. Main sources of revenue were:

- AB Agriculture & Irrigation program grant – \$24,858.
- Facility fees – \$18,792, close to the prior 5-year mean.
- Leduc County & Beaumont operating grants – \$16,000.
- Special Events – \$29,760, well above prior 5-year mean.
- Sponsorships/Donations – \$3,280, lower than normal.
- Varied – \$6,813, memberships, gaming, reimbursed exp.
- Special municipal, government, & other grants – \$50,500

EXPENSES: Operating costs (\$124,060) vary less than income but were 59% higher in FY 2025 than the prior 5-year average. Payroll and contract staff expenses accounted for 42% of the total. Land improvements, Fairground operations, fundraiser expenses, accounting fees, insurance premiums, office/website costs, and volunteer expenses raised the proportion to 96% of total operating expenditures (*see* page 5).

Capital expenditures in FY 2025 totaled \$4,882, most of which (69%) was spent on the garden irrigation system. ■

Operations Committee

Operations Manager Dennis Madu performed most of the maintenance and grounds-keeping work. Supplies and services were monitored and ordered, garbage and manure were cleaned up, grass and weeds were mowed and trimmed, equipment was repaired and serviced, and structures were maintained. Thank you to all volunteers that helped keep the Fairground in fine shape.

Thank you to Dennis Madu for serving as Operations Manager for 8 years at the BADAS Fairground. Prior to 2018, Dennis performed the same work at the Fairground but as a volunteer.

We are actively seeking a new Facility/Operations Manager to manage our grounds next year and beyond. This is a paid position starting at \$22/hour. ■

Equine Committee

FACILITY BOOKINGS

Equine use of the Fairground creates the most bookings, user numbers, and rental/fee revenue. Numbers were much lower than in previous years (*see* chart). Total number of bookings in 2025 was **66**, 13% less than in 2024. 12 were cancelled. Logged user-days for 2025 was **353**, 48% lower than in 2024. Several factors contributed to the lower numbers in 2025:

- Beaumont Horse Trials (BHT), which usually accounts for 240 to over 300 user-days, was not held in 2025 due to circumstances beyond the BHT Association's control. BHT will return bigger and better than ever in 2026.
- Regularly booked lessons for Clearwater Valley Pony Club (CVPC) members were discontinued after 2023. These accounted for 50-150 user-days in past years.

Fiscal Year	Bookings		Major Events	Calculated User-Days
	Made	Cancelled		
2015	108	14	11	1,081
2016	125	10	11	1,193
2017	110	12	14	1,078
2018	103	17	9	1,122
2019	95	29	8	846
2020	47	19	12	186
2021	98	27	8	560
2022	94	20	3	503
2023	118	31	3	710
2024	76	12	4	690
2025	66	12	2	353

- Cross-country clinics and other equine events booked often prior to COVID have been booked rarely since.

Cancellation numbers were the same as in 2024 (18% of total bookings). For the first time ever, bookings were evenly spread amongst May, June, July, and August, although cancellations were much higher in July and August. Bookings really diminished in September, despite the great fall weather.

Two major equine events (*Staden-Donnelly X-C Clinic* and *Alberta North Region Pony Club Rally Camp*) were held in 2025. ■

Policies & Procedures Committee

The Policies & Procedures Committee worked on several policies and procedures in FY 2025. Existing documents were revised and updated: Leadership Funding Request form and grants for youth leadership, Abusive Patrons Policy, GPCG Policies and Procedures, and the Equine Facility Users Policy.

The following new policies were created: Code of Conduct for Directors, Code of Conduct for Employees, Code of Conduct for Members, Disciplinary Actions for Code of Conduct Violations, and Winter Recreation Policy. ■

Community Engagement Committee

The Community Engagement Committee is responsible for membership, social media, and the BADAS website.

BADAS attended the Beaumont Alberta Farmers Market throughout the summer.

BADAS Membership – 105 Full (adult), 8 Junior (12-17 years old), 18 Senior, and 21 Lifetime – totalled 152 in 2025. Our long-term average individual membership (2004-2025) is 154. **Renew your membership for 2025-26** on the BADAS website. Encourage family and friends to become members too. Also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!

YOUTH COMMITTEE

BADAS was awarded a Canada Post Community Foundation grant of \$16,000 to pilot a youth committee to build our connection with youth. A coordinator was hired to develop this project. A further aim is to develop a small farm entrepreneur program that will enable youth to earn money while learning business, marketing, and farming skills. Our goal is to become a known resource for youth to gain work experience by volunteering at our events, and by participating in the youth committee and the farm entrepreneur program. ■

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Ferguson	President
Claire Spink	Secretary
Bruce Walker	Treasurer
Mary-Ann McDonald	1 st Vice-President
Loretta Martin	2 nd Vice-President
Emi Agopsowicz	Director
Alain Bertrand	Director
Cindy Erdosi	Director
Tracy Hughes	Director
Paul Muyres	Director
Jones Orock	Director
Renate Price	Director
Kathleen Schirmaier	Director

BADAS thanks the Councils and Administration of the *City of Beaumont* and *Leduc County* for their support in 2025.

BADAS also sincerely thanks Rod Ingram, Patience Mbua, Claire Spink, Renate Price, and Kathleen Schirmaier for their past Board service. ■

CLEARWATER VALLEY PONY CLUB – 2025

Clearwater Valley Pony Club (CVPC) completed their 57th year as a branch of Canadian Pony Club.

CVPC had 5 active members and 5 Horse Masters who participated in equine activities this past season. Three members tested their stable management and riding skills, one member received their C complete, and our other member received their C1 Stable Management and Flat ride level.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to run the 18th Annual Beaumont Horse Trials (BHT) in 2025. GREAT NEWS, we're approved for 2026 BHT on June 6 & 7. With the potential of up to 180 riders from Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan competing in all 3 disciplines: Dressage, Show Jumping, and Cross Country, BHT 2026 will be a big event. Volunteers are always welcome and get a "front row seat" to our weekend excitement, a gift of appreciation, and complimentary lunch. Email: bhtvolunteers@gmail.com if you are interested.

We would like to thank BADAS for their continued support for our members and our Pony Club. ■

MAJOR EVENTS COMING IN 2026

For the latest details, go to www.beaumontagsociety.com

JANUARY 25TH – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM), 50+ CLUB

FEBRUARY 6-8 – AAAS ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

MAY 9 – BADAS SPRING KICKOFF

MAY 22-24 – BEAUMONT DAYS WEEKEND

MAY 23 – BADAS PARADE (AS PART OF BEAUMONT DAYS)

JUNE 6-7 – BEAUMONT HORSE TRIALS (BHT)

AUGUST 15 – OPEN FARM DAYS (OFD) 2026 (TENTATIVE!)

AUGUST 22 – RURAL ROOTS FAIR (RRF) 2026 (TENTATIVE!) ■

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OTHER BADAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

BADAS is proud to announce 2 major new development projects aimed to increase revenues and better utilize our land. In addition, 2 long-term projects continue.

RV Campground – A new RV Campground, with about 30 camping sites, will hopefully be developed just north of the current stables. More details will be available at the AGM.

Project Forest – is a reforestation project of 9 acres that will become an AMA Centennial Forest with an all-season recreational trail including cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing is expected to begin soon with the arrival of our new grooming equipment. We hope this activity will help us build our membership and raise awareness about our Fairground.

Gobeil Heritage Barn (GHB) – No additional funds were obtained in FY 2024 to further develop the GBH in 2025. Plans are being formed for obtaining funding to complete development of this facility.

Magnan Heritage House (MHH) – In FY 2025 the furnace was purchased, and the sill plate was sealed and insulated. Installation of the furnace, pump out tank, and fencing remain for this structure to become the HQ for BADAS.

POSSIBLE SALE OF FAIRGROUND LAND

Pressures of development and the need to grow to become sustainable have encouraged BADAS to look at the sale of about 35 acres of land. This is an important time for BADAS members and the community to become active in the future of BADAS. We will be launching an awareness campaign to keep our region informed about the potential sale of the land. The Board is carefully considering how the sale could influence ways we can develop to meet our mandate, vision, and mission. We encourage anyone who is interested in the future of BADAS to get their membership and watch for information sessions and engagement about the land sale. Members have the deciding vote. Attend the AGM to learn more. ■

GERRY PATSULA COMMUNITY GARDENS (GPCG) NEWS – by Richard Ferguson

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers. This year, we had more volunteer support than ever before, a wonderful sign of a thriving and engaged community garden. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment.

My appreciation also goes out to the Garden Team for their dedication throughout the season. I look forward to working with them again next year. This year, the Team took responsibility for maintaining the pump and hoses, and overall, it went very well. We also successfully replaced the old pump, ensuring reliable water access for our gardeners.

It was a truly successful year in the garden. While a few issues arose along the way, we will be reviewing them and working toward improvements for the coming season.

The online garden plot application system will open in early March. This year, garden registration will be done through the BADAS website. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at gpcgadmin@beaumontagsociety.com. ■

Events Committee

This is a new standing committee struck by the BADAS Board of Directors in 2025. The purpose of this committee is to plan and organize annual community events, engage with community groups interested in partnering for events, work with the Fundraising team to obtain sponsors, work with the Community Engagement team to promote BADAS, and to develop systems for event feedback and reporting.

We are looking for Ag Society members to take on organizing these events as members of the Events Committee. A few long-term members that have organized these events in the past are still available to help. It is important to develop 'new blood' with the help of this existing expertise. Since Events and Fundraising are so closely linked, it will be important for these 2 committees to work closely together.

Following is a synopsis of events that were held during 2025, including some new ones – Spring Kickoff, Seniors Connect, and the BADAS Curling Bonspiel (officially a FY 2026 event).

SPRING KICKOFF

Spring Kickoff was hosted on May 17 in partnership with Beaumont Library to help promote the seed library and to fundraise with plant sales. BADAS also partnered with the Beaumont Knights of Columbus, who BBQed burgers and hot dogs, and sold other refreshments as a joint fundraiser. Thank you, Greenhaven Gardens, for your sponsorship.

BEAUMONT DAYS PARADE

The Beaumont Days Parade, hosted by BADAS in conjunction with the Town/City of Beaumont since the mid-1990s, was held on Saturday May 24th. The registered lineup numbered 40, but that included 4 dignitaries riding on or walking with 4 other entries, the lead RCMP vehicle, and the Beaumont Street Sweeper (followed the horses). One entry pulled out at the last minute due to lack of planning and preparation.

BADAS entered a float in 2025 (see picture below). Many thanks to Flaman Rentals for providing a trailer for our float entry, and a flat-deck trailer as the stage at RRF '25, August 23.



OPEN FARM DAYS (OFD)

OFD was hosted at the Fairground on Saturday, August 16. 127 people attended. This event included both self guided and guided garden tours, a BBQ fundraiser, plant sale, farm equipment display, lawn games, and kids' crafts. A huge thank you to Leduc Co-op and ReEarth for sponsoring this event. Once again BADAS partnered with Beaumont Knights of Columbus on the BBQ fundraiser.

RURAL ROOTS FAIR (RRF)

The 8th annual RRF, held August 23, drew 1,418 visitors, exactly 100 less than in 2024. The one-day format adopted in 2023 remained successful in 2025. This year we featured live music from local artists, conservation group presentations, caricature artists, mascots familiar to kids, a petting zoo, nature crafts, farmers market, lawn games, dunk tank auction, and a community mural on the new greenhouse!

Thank you RRF sponsors: City of Beaumont, Leduc County, Ace Vegetation, Global Humic Products, Oil Country Towing, Cheyenne Tree Farms Ltd, Range Road Veterinary, RE/MAX Edmonton, Horizon Ag & Turf, Flaman Rentals, Sobey's Beaumont, Beaumont Tim Hortons, and Conlon Motor Sports. As at past RRF events, we partnered with the Artists' Association of Beaumont, Beaumont Knights of Columbus, and Beaumont Alberta Farmers Market.



SENIORS CONNECT

Thanks to a Seniors grant from a Leduc County, we were able to build relationships with the seniors' community. We hosted a yoga class and wild bird information session as well as a Seedy Sunday event in partnership with the Beaumont Library. Remaining funds will be used to partner with local seniors to showcase their talent in the production of a murder mystery March 7, 2026.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BBQ

Sometimes also called 'Harvest Fest', this event not only signified the end of gardening for the year (with a garden cleanup work-bee) but was hosted by BADAS to show appreciation to all members that volunteered for various events through the year. It was held at the Fairground the first weekend in October.

BEAUMONT CURLING BONSPIEL

A new event, the Beaumont Curling Bonspiel, was launched late in FY 2025. Some registrations were received in FY 2025, but the event was held in the current FY, 2026. And it turned out to be very successful. Expect more information next year. ■

Treasurer's Report & Budget

The Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2024-25 (Actual \$) and general budget (Budget \$) for 2025-26 are presented below. Financial reports (Actual 2024-25, Budget 2025-26) for Capital Development and Fairground Operations are also presented on this page. Review engagement year-end financial statements prepared by an accountant will also be presented at the AGM.

Treasurer's Report with Budget

GENERAL ACCOUNT:	ACTUAL (\$)	BUDGET (\$)
Revenue:		
AA&I Annual Op Grant	24,858	25,000
AA&I Special Grants (ASIRP)	31,500	Deferred
Municipal Op Grants	16,000	14,000
Special Project Grants	19,000	72,000
Summer Jobs Funding (GoC)	0	14,000
CIP/CFEP/CCSF Grants	0	65,000
Gaming Income (Casino, etc)	261	15,000
Membership	4,090	5,000
Facility Rentals/Fees	18,792	24,000
Fundraisers/Special Events	29,760	121,800
Sponsorship	0	5,000
Donations	3,280	5,000
Volunteer Service Reimb.	100	700
Exp Recovery/Misc/Interest	2,362	1,700
Op. Revenue Subtotals	\$150,003	\$368,200
GST Rebate (not income)	2,569	3,378
Effective bank balance*	25,933	52,855
Deferred Income	0	0
Loan or Line-of-Credit	0	98,884
Revenue TOTALS	\$178,505	\$523,316
Expenses:		
Land Improvements	230	1,000
Fairground Operations	31,353	46,300
Labour Payroll/WCB	49,277	87,000
Contract Staff	3,362	1,500
Office Supp./Postage/Subscr	1,473	1,900
Telecom	0	1,000
Website Services	2,215	3,000
Advertising & Promotion	1,554	5,000
Studies/Development Plans	0	0
Edu/Aware/Leadership	0	1,500
Member/Staff Training/Conf	370	1,000
Bank Charges/Interest	330	500
Membership (AAAS, CoC)	755	800
Accounting Fees	4,000	4,500
GST 50% add back	1,532	2,900
Legal Fees/Other Prof. Fees	0	500
Donations	0	100
Insurance (liab./prop.)	4,979	5,200
Fundraiser/Event Expenses	19,406	65,700
Volunteer Expenses	652	3,500
AAAS Convention/Mtgs	1,800	2,000
Awards/Prizes	99	500
Room/Space Rental	310	500
Goodwill/Honorarium	0	700
Bad Debts	0	0
Misc/Reimbursable	361	100
Op. Expenses Subtotals	\$124,060	\$236,700
Capital Development	4,882	100,600
Loan principal payments	2,991	1,116
Expenses TOTALS	\$131,933	\$338,416
Operations Net (Subtotals)	25,943	\$131,500
Combined Net (TOTALS)	\$46,572	\$184,900

Capital Development Financial Report

	Actual	Budget
Maintenance Equipment		1,600
Garden/Tillage Equipment/UAC	3,382	2,000
Roads, Landscaping, Parking Lot	0	13,500
Gobeil Heritage Barn (GHB)	0	0
Gobeil Elevator	0	0
Magnan Heritage House (MHH)	1,500	15,000
Buildings/Structures/Bleachers	0	0
Fencing, Entrance, Signs	0	0
RV Campground		65,000
Nature Trail		40,000
X-C Course jumps	0	0
Stabling (Pole Barn & Day Stalls)	0	0
Electrical/Electronics	0	4,000
Other Structures (metal picnic tables)	0	0
TOTALS	4,882	\$140,600

Notes: The 2026 budget includes funds for improving roadways, finishing the MHH, and creating an RV Campground and Nature Trail.



Fairground Operations Financial Report

	Actual	Budget
Utilities (power, toilets, garbage, water)	7,131	7,000
Fuel/lubricants	2,737	3,000
General maintenance	0	600
Maint./repair – buildings & structures	150	500
Maint./repair – X-C Course	9,975	22,900
Maint./repair – GPCG/Bees	1,405	2,000
Maint./repair – Equipment	6,391	3,000
Security & Signage	63	2,800
Equipment rental	0	500
Equipment, supplies, sundries (non-cap)	3,501	4,000
TOTALS	\$31,353	\$46,300

Notes: Total actual FY2024 expenses and budget amounts were transferred to 'Fairground Operations' line in the Treasurer's Report.

Repair of X-C Course jumps is covered by AB government's Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization Program (ASIRP) grant (\$31,500) received at the end of FY 2025. Jumps will continue to be repaired and rebuilt in FY 2026.

EFFECTIVE BANK BALANCE* AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2025:

Net Amount Available – all bank accounts **\$52,855**

*Effective Bank Balance, or Cash-On-Hand, is the sum of bank account balances PLUS outstanding Accounts Receivable LESS outstanding Accounts Payable at year-end.