

Chinook's Edge bus driver Carly Hansen named 2024 Spruce View Citizen of the Year

The Spruce View & District Lions Club has selected Carly Hansen as Spruce Citizen of the Year for 2024. The award has been given annually since about 1980 to one individual who gives selflessly to the community.

Hansen is the mother of seven children and she is a bus driver for Prairie Bus Lines, transporting Chinook's Edge students to school at Spruce View School. Also, Hansen is the chair of the Spruce View School Council, she is a Spruce View firefighter, she helps with the Raven Crimewatch group, and she runs a playgroup in town for Moms and young children, to name a few of the many ways she contributes to her community.

"Carly is a community builder," said Suzanne Levac, President of the Spruce View & District Lions Club. "This award is all about her character and the way she gives back."

"I was very surprised to receive this award," said Carly Hansen. "Usually it goes to someone who has more time than I do, to give to the community. But I do love being involved, and I am honoured. I am honoured that people took the time to nominate me. I feel seen and appreciated. Thank you!"



Hansen grew up in North Vancouver. She visited a friend living in Alberta in 2001 and chose to stay. ***"I just liked the slow pace of rural Alberta life, with not much traffic and no immediate neighbors, but also friends and community who are tight knit,"*** she said.

Originally landing in Sundre, by 2006 Hansen had tried out a few rural Alberta communities and eventually settled in Spruce View. ***"It is such a nice town. The people here are amazing; they rally together to get things done,"*** said Hansen.

"Congratulations to Carly Hansen, a remarkable parent at Spruce View School, on receiving the well-deserved 'Citizen of the Year' award from the Spruce View & District Lions Club," said Claire Funk, Principal, Spruce View School.

"As our dedicated school bus driver, school council chair, and enthusiastic volunteer, Carly truly embodies the spirit of our school motto – 'pride in self, pride in others, pride in community'. Carly's unwavering commitment to fostering a sense of pride and community within our school is truly commendable. We appreciate you, Carly!" said Funk.

“Carly is a volunteer and organizing guru. She is the first person to show up when anything in the community happens and I am grateful to be able to call this amazing person my friend. I can not think of anyone else that is more deserving of this award than Carly,” wrote Elysse Janzen, a Spruce View & District citizen, in her nomination of Hansen.

“Carly is a dedicated community member focused heavily on our kids and community health. Some of her children are now young adults and working and helping in our community. It is great to see that she has passed her passion for community onto her kids,” wrote Brent Ramsay, a Spruce View & District citizen, in his nomination of Hansen.

Levac said the Lions Club is also impressed with Hansen’s children; the Lions Club sponsored one of Hansen’s older children to go to a leadership camp. ***“You can see that Carly is teaching her children to give back to the community,”*** said Levac. ***“She is an excellent role model.”***

“I just want my kids to know that if you can give a little bit of your time it goes a long way,” said Hansen. ***“I want them to know that with a little bit of time and effort, you can really make a difference.”***

Hansen will officially receive her award at the meeting of the Spruce View & District Lions Club on January 20, 2024.



Carly Hansen during Halloween 2023, with the students who ride her bus to Spruce View School.



Generosity and kindness fill schools and communities prior to Christmas break

In the hustle and bustle of school days prior to the Christmas break, and amid all the fun and excitement, Chinook's Edge students and staff were delighted to 'give back' to their communities and did so in a variety of ways. From the, "Everyone Deserves a Smile" project at Beacon Hill School in Sylvan Lake (noted in the December 18th edition of this publication) and the Christmas Palooza at École Olds High School (noted in the December 11th edition), to events highlighted below... the spirit of Christmas was enjoyed and generously shared throughout Chinook's Edge!

Thanks to students and staff - and families too - for your heartfelt contributions! #CESDSocialEmotionalWellbeing



Top row: Jessie Duncan students from Penhold (right) and École Steffie Woima students from Sylvan Lake (left) deliver Christmas letters and cards to neighbors.

Middle row: River Valley students in Sundre contribute mittens and hats to the school's 'Mitten tree' - donated to community members who need the items (left). Innisfail High School students help to set up Christmas decorations at the hospital (middle), Innisfail Middle School students help to pack handmade gift bags for seniors (right).

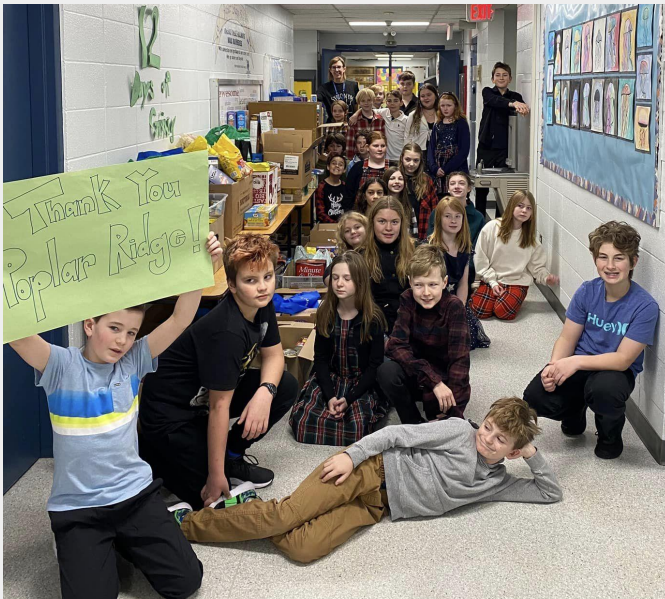
Bottom row: John Wilson Elementary Students in Innisfail with \$2,000 worth of donations they raised for the Humane Society.



Food bank donations!



Top row: Food bank donations from Spruce View School (left) and Westglen School (in Didsbury).



Middle row: Food bank donations from Poplar Ridge School (left) and École Steffie Woima School in Sylvan Lake (right).



Bottom row: Students from one class at Didsbury High School were the fastest to collect some food bank donations early in the season (left). Students from Penhold Crossing School were 'on track' and 'on a roll' in shaping the direction of their foodbank donations (right).





Top row: Grade 6 students from Hugh Sutherland School (Carstairs) sang Christmas carols for residents of the Bethany Seniors Lodge.

Middle row: Penhold Elementary School students turned their gift of new shovels into the gift of service in their community (left). École Deer Meadow School (Olds) students collected items for stockings for seniors and gifted them (right).

Bottom row: Older students at Carstairs Elementary help younger students create Christmas cards (left). The HJC Interact Club from École H.J. Cody High School (Sylvan Lake) collected donations for the Sylvan Lake Christmas Bureau (right).

