

THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

24 April 1995

President
Barry Walker

1st V/President
Mike Matei

2nd V/President
Allan Douglas

Secretary
Dick Ogilvie

Treasurer
Jack Ellis

Directors
Owen Cornish
Gordon Robertson
Russ Shepherd
Tony Sheppard

Our last meeting took place at the Mayfair at noon on Tuesday April 18, 1995. There were about 40 Gyros and guests in attendance.

Harry Mills led us in Cherrio and **Reverend Bill Graham** asked the Blessing. Since this was the last official meeting for **President Barry**, he was in good spirits.

Guests included Mike Allen who was introduced by **Mike Matei**, **Marty Larson's** guests David McNaughton, Harvey Hanlon, Murray Patko and Ken Charlesworth. **Tony Sheperd** introduced his son Grant and **Bryce Van Deusan** introduced his brother **Wes**. Also, Brian Lafleche who did some measuring for jackets was a guest. Anyone who wants a Gyro jacket and could not make it on Tuesday can be measured at Lafleche Brothers before the end of April.

Birthdays this month include Mort Morter and Gord Rennie on April 24.

President Barry reminded us of the Quad Club installation to take place on April 29, 1995. It will take place at the Chateau Louis with cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, the installation at 8:00 and dancing from 9:30 onwards. The cost is \$65.00 per couple. This is one of the key Gyro events when there is an opportunity to support the incoming Executive of our own club and the other Edmonton area clubs. We need to give a fixed number of attendees so please indicate immediately that you plan to attend.

President Barry informed the members that he had received a letter from **Dave Webber** to indicate that he is resigning from the club. He has been a non-resident associate member for more than three years and has decided that now is the time to end the formal membership.

Howard Wilson informed your scribe that he heard recently from another non-resident associate member, **Neil Sheidow**, that he is doing well in Ontario but that he thinks about and remembers his Edmonton Gyro friends frequently. He passes on his best wishes to all of us.

Marty Larson invited anyone who is interested in playing cards to mark May 12 on your calendar. On that date the bridge windup will take place at the Balmoral curling club and all those non-bridge players who enjoy a fun evening are welcome.

Bert Boren reported on the health of the club. He reported that **Garry Diment** is home from his operation and is doing well. He hopes to be driving soon.

Allan Warrack informed us that his mother in law **Ivy Rennie** was in hospital. A later development is the very good news that **Ivy** is home and very much improved. This was a remarkable recovery because the original expectation was the she would be in the hospital for a much longer time. Everyone is delighted with this news, good for you **Ivy!**

Bill Graham told us about a visit with **Stan Smith** which was characterized by good friendship, a story about **Stan's** visit with the history department at the University of Alberta. **Stan** spoke about the First World War and brought to life some of the realities that previously were written incidents from the point of view of the young historians. Rumour also has it that there was some consumption of Tio Pepe during the visit but that could not be confirmed at press time.



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The meeting was then turned over to **Dick Ogilvie** who was in charge of the election process for the two new Directors who will serve on the executive for the next two years. Due to the guest speakers the reports by executive members was postponed until the next meeting. The five candidates for Director who were chosen at the meeting at Kelly's Saloon were **John Plunkett, Fred Schulte, Dick Mandlis, Peter Rausch** and **Andy Friderichsen**.

Allan Warrack campaigned for **Peter Rausch** stating that he is a good friend and a great squash player. Then **Bert Boren** gave a campaign speech for **Andy 'Hagar' Friderichsen** claiming that he is prepared, productive, pleasant and one who sees trouble and responds. Then **John Ross** spoke on behalf of **Fred Schulte** who he touted as a good planner, a potential frugal Director and a man who cares about people. The ballots were then cast and they were counted by the scrutineers as the program for the day was enjoyed.

There was a draw for a NAIT foundation shirt which **Roger Russell** flogged tickets for throughout the meeting. It was won by a guest, **Murray Patko**. Unfortunately, **Murray** is not **Roger's** size so there will be an exchange by the foundation.

Marty Larson then introduced the guest speakers for the day. They were **Bill McCallum**, the managing director of the NAIT foundation which has raised over \$19 million for NAIT. Also there was **Al Hamilton** who was with the Junior Oil Kings in 1966 and the Oilers from 1972 - 80. His is the only retired sweater in the Oilers organization. Amongst other duties he is now the sales manager of the Big Valley Jamboree. Finally there was Edmonton promoter, successful entrepreneur, hockey booster, and Alberta and Edmonton Hall of Fame member, **Bill Hunter** who was in attendance as the Chairman of the NAIT foundation.

Bill Hunter talked about the NAIT hockey draft which is the largest in the world with a grand prize of \$50,000. He pointed out that NAIT operates its capital expansion by raising 100% of the money through the foundation. He emphasized that NAIT graduates are a great asset to the community and that 80% of them go immediately into the workforce. NAIT tailors its programs to the needs of the employing community and there is a need for this type of graduate in Edmonton and Alberta. Before leaving, **Bill Hunter** talked about the current situation with the hockey strike and the expectations of both owners and players. In his view there needs to be an adjustment in the attitudes of both if the great game of hockey is to survive. At the present cost of seats the game is

pricing itself out of the market for many people.

Al Hamilton then talked about his more optimistic view of the future. While he agreed that the cost of hockey tickets is now beyond the reach of the average person, he believes that if the price is too high the market will sort out the appropriate levels. His view is also that the players and the owners have priced themselves out of the market that used to make hockey popular, affordable and supported by people with ordinary incomes.

Bill McCallum then talked about the NAIT foundation fundraising and the impact it has had on the development of the institution. This foundation was one of the first to anticipate the trend towards non government funding and was established in the 1980's. It has now raised about \$11 million for a new building for the medical program and this will be constructed in the near future. NAIT has an operating budget of \$103 million which includes only \$3 million for capital equipment. Since the institution is dependent on the latest capital equipment, the role of the Foundation is crucial. The new addition will include a theatre that will accommodate 300. This is much larger than can be handled by NAIT at the present time.

Our speakers were thanked by **Bert Boren** who did his usual fine job of relating the speeches to the everyday lives of Gyros.

The next meeting is on May 2, 1995 with **Ron Ewoniak** in charge.

The new Directors were announced as **Andy Friderichsen** and **Dick Mandlis**.

The draw for \$25 towards the registration fees for the 1996 convention was won by **Allan Ursulak**.

