



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-Ari Hoeksema, Past President-Bill Taylor,
1st Vice-President-John Boyd, Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Mike Matei,
Directors-Warren Garbutt, Marty Larson, Jack Little, Jim Lochhead,
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

NOVEMBER 2011 - PART ONE

Marty Larson is celebrating his birthday on the 14th.

The November wedding anniversaries are **John** and **Helen Ross**, 48 years on the 2nd; **Jack** and **Terrie Ellis**, 45 years on the 19th and **Dick** and **Marilyn Nichols**, 48 years on the 23rd.

FIRST POSTING

Tony Mazzuca has applied for membership in our club. **Tony** and his wife, **Care** reside at **8019-152B Avenue** and their postal code is **T5C 3L8**. Their telephone number is **780-478-5063** and their email address is [**amazzuca@telus.net**](mailto:amazzuca@telus.net)

Tony is semi-retired and is proposed by **Barry Walker** and **David Burnett**.

President Ari Hoeksema welcomed 31 Gyros and four guests to the November 1st luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Larry George**, our newest member was also welcomed. **Cheerio** was led by **Leon Lubin** and the **Grace** was presented by **David Burnett**.

Ron Ramsey introduced his guests **Ray Cromie** and **John Moore**. **David Burnett** introduced our new member applicant, **Tony Mazzuca** and **John Mann** introduced his guest **Don Whidden**.

Dick Nichols advised that the sale of **Hockey Pool** tickets has been good and there are still some tickets available.

Ron Ramsey introduced his friend and guest speaker, **Ray Cromie**. Ray has been a "birder" since he was 10 years old and his love of birds followed him through his years as a school science teacher. Many of his former students still hang out with him because of his interest in owls. Ray is not university trained but is a self-trained citizen scientist in the area of owl behaviour. Ray took up bird banding after his retirement in 1993. He has built 300 nesting boxes for various types of owls.

Ray stated that there are two types of birds, **raptors** (birds of prey) and **raptor food**. Owls are raptors and there are about 13-15 species found in Alberta. The biggest is the **Great Gray Owl** and the second largest is the **Great Horned Owl**. The smallest is the **Pygmy Owl** which is diurnal (daytime) in nature and has been seen in the Athabasca and Nojack areas. Sightings are rare with only two or three per year.

Owls are birds of prey and have four sharp talons; their hearing is excellent and its beak is very strong. The **facial disk** on the owl allows the bird to create a concave sphere which directs sound into the ear canal beneath. The two ear canals are located at slightly different elevations to allow a more accurate fix on their prey such as a mouse or a vole located beneath a layer of thick snow. The eyes don't move but the head can be rotated almost 360 degrees.

Each owl type has their own call; the male has a deeper hoot than the female. The owls feathers are designed to be quiet in flight. Their feathers are soft and the edges of the wing bend. In contrast, the Canada Goose has harder stiffer feathers which allows them to be heard as they fly overhead. The Great Gray will eat almost anything, the Great Horned eats almost entirely mice, while the Pygmy feeds on insects, small birds and small mice. The owls will swallow the entire bird or mouse and the bones and fur will remain in the stomach. Over time, the bones and fur are regurgitated as a long solid pellet. By examining pellets, one can identify rodent and bird species in an area.

John Moore then proceeded to walk around the dining room with a **live burrowing owl** that has gone through rehabilitation but can't be released back to the wild. This owl is used for demonstration purposes, especially in schools. Young owls disperse from their nesting areas to prevent inbreeding. Owls that use the same nest for two or three years are known as resident owls. Young owls are not banded until they are two to three weeks old. Owls life spans vary from 12 to 40 years depending on their type. Predators of owls include coyotes, goshawks and the Gray Horned Owl.

President Ari thanked Ray and John for a very informative and interesting presentation. The **free lunch draw** was won by **Gerry Glassford**.



Great Horned Owl Pygmy Owl

Great Gray Owl



Live Burrowing Owl

Our Gyro club member, **Larry Wang** has been selected for very special recognition by the University of Alberta; an **honorary Doctor of Science degree**. Some of you have not met Larry yet, he is a long time member but attends few meetings. Larry was sponsored into our club by **Marty Larson** in 1992.

*Linda Hughes, Chancellor of the University of Alberta announces the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Science degree to **Lawrence Chia-Huang Wang**.*

An outstanding educator, innovator and global citizen, Lawrence Chia-Huang Wang has led creation of international partnerships, sustainable development practices and economically vibrant rural communities. Following his research on metabolism and cold tolerance in humans, he invented the Canadian Cold Buster bar and the Access bar, a patented "functional food" currently marketed in 12 countries. In 2000, he co-founded the University of Alberta's ECO--Ecological Conservancy Outreach Fund to help with rehabilitation and eco-management of the Upper Yangtze River in China. An elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a recipient of the Friendship Award, the highest honour of the government of China bestows upon foreign experts, Wang has made lasting contributions to the life pursuit of knowledge and the alleviation of poverty.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 15th

Speaker: Dr. Lyn Skillen

Topic: Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA)

Contact: John Ross

**Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, River View Room, Shaw Conference Centre,
Tuesday Evening, December 6th**

Cost: \$73 per person with wine and \$62 without wine.

6:00 pm: Champagne and socializing

6:30 pm: Carved Roast Turkey Dinner

Contacts: Fred Schulte and Sam Gruden

**Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, January 3rd,
2012**

Speaker: Bob Boutilier, Transportation General Manager, City of Edmonton

Topic: Rapid Transit, Road Construction and the Snow Removal Policy.

Contact: Chuck Gerhart

Celebrating 100 years of Gyro
1912 – 2012



AUGUST 23 TO 26, 2012

CANMORE ALBERTA

HOSTED BY THE GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY

Steve Denny
CHAIRMAN

Robert Lane
REGISTRATION



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