



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-Jack Bowen, Past President-Ron Trant

1st Vice-President-Georg Schuller

Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Larry Dobson

Directors- Bruce Foy, Jim Lepp, Sheldon Weatherby, Martin Marshall

Peter Carter (Ex-Officio) Dunc Mills (Ex-Officio)

Database Administrator-Chuck Gerhart, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

OCTOBER 2023

BIRTHDAYS: Roger Russell, 85 on the 5th, Ken Korchinski, 84 on the 26th,
Mike Matei, 67 on the 28th and Doug Armstrong, 89 on the 31st.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Marty and Shirley Larson, 63 years on the
8th; Tony and Care Mazzuca, 53 years on the 10th and Gerry and Alice
Glassford, 66 years on the 12th.

Mike Matei welcomed 45 Gyros and three guests to the **Annual Men's Bocce Tournament** held at the Italian Seniors Centre on October 4th.

Larry Dobson led the singing of Cheerio; **Chuck Gerhart** presented the Grace and **Rikke Dootjes** gave the toast to the King.

Nestor Slipchuk, President of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club thanked those in attendance for a great turnout!

The bocce started at 5:30 with six teams playing on three courts that have been refurbished with a new green astro grass type of surface. The courts were just as tricky as the original packed sand and required an expert touch to keep the ball rolling not too fast or not too slow.

Dinner was served at 6:30 pm and we were treated to a green lettuce salad, followed by pasta and veal scallopini. An excellent tiramisu style of dessert followed.

The 50-50 draw organized by Don Greig and his team brought in \$220 and **Past District Governor, Sid Slade** was the lucky winner of \$110.

Bocce resumed with a vengeance and the ten teams, and the 41 players were restricted to 20-minute games or a score of 11, whichever came first.

The **B team winners** were **Milt Lanes, Ron Trant, John Williams, and Chuck Gerhart.**

The **A team winners** were **Bernie Kropp, Larry Dobson, Georg Schuller and Dorne Hunt.**

Thanks to **Mike Matei** and **Augie Annicchiarico** for organizing a first-class event!



"B" Event Winners

Ron Trant John Williams Chuck Gerhart



"A" Event Winners

Bernie Kropp Larry Dobson Georg Schuller Dorne Hunt



Alan Clark, a member of the Stampede City Gyro Club for 42 years, who served as Club President and our District Governor in 2003-04 succumbed to cancer on Friday night, September 29th. In recognition of his service with Gyro and his community, Alan received the Award of Merit on July 22, 2006. Alan was 83 at the time of his passing.

A Celebration of Life will be held on **Saturday, October 29th**, 2:00pm at:
Eden Brook Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home
24223 Township Road 242,
Calgary, AB T3Z 3K2

Lt. Governor Dunc Mills played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **President Jack Bowen** welcomed 44 Gyros and ladies from the Sherwood Park and Edmonton Gyro Club's and our guest speaker to the **Annual Founders Night** celebration held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club on October 17th.

Ron Trant led the singing of Cheerio and **President Jack** presented the Grace.

Immediate Past President of Gyro International Peter Carter installed **Ted Ewanchuk** as **Lt. Governor**.



Peter Carter

Ted Ewanchuk

Judi Stratichuk

Bernie Kropp of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club spoke of our three founding members **Ed Kagy, Gus Handerson** and **Paul Schwan**, *“who were unusual men with a burning zeal to better the world, themselves, and their fellow men through the faith of the great creator”- ‘peace and friendship’.*

Bernie then spoke of **Gyro Joe** during the period of 1912 to 1944 where a series of world changing events unfolded; World War I, the Spanish Flu Pandemic, Prohibition, the 1929 stock market crash and World War II.

Gyro Bernie began his journey in 1990 starting as bartender, then Director, Bulletin Editor and District Governor. Curlarama was a mainstay event for 15 years. Gyro picnics were held in our backyard for 10 years and we were blessed with six grandsons. Christmas Parties for Kids was started again with Bernie as ‘Santa’ with hundreds of kids and parents. Hot dogs, hamburgers and fries were the mainstay element.

Gyro is a life-long trip! We started with 80 seats on our GYRO Bus and now there are 40.



Bernie Kropp

Fred Schulte of the Gyro Club of Edmonton spoke of their 102-year history and highlighted the activities of **nine of their most senior founding members.**

Marty Larson was sponsored by Wes Van Dusen in 1964 and is celebrating **59** years of Gyro friendship. He has held all the positions available and won virtually all the Gyro awards. Marty has sponsored more than 24 Gyros since 1972! Eight of these Gyros are still members.

David Burnett was sponsored by Marty Larson and has been a Gyro for **49** years. He held the positions of President in 1998-89 and District Secretary-Treasurer in 2002-2003. He also received the Award of Merit in 2001.

Allan Warrack was sponsored by Gordon Rennie and celebrates **43** years this year. He served as President in 1985-85.

Roger Russell was sponsored by Marty Larson **40** years ago and served as President in 1990-91. In 2009, he received the Award of Merit.

Larry Dobson joined Gyro **38** years ago at the invitation of Marty Larson and was President in 2001-2002.

Barry Walker celebrates **37 years** this year and was sponsored by Marty Larson in 1986. He served as President in 1994-95. Barry received the Award of Merit in 2001 and the Bud Mitchell Award in 2006 as International Gyro of the Year.

Mike Matei joined our club in 1988 at the invitation of Marty Larson and served as President in 1995-96. He also received the Award of Merit in 2017. Mike has been a member of the Edmonton Club for **35** years.

Jack Ellis was sponsored by Merrill Morstad in 1989 and served as President in 1998-89. He is celebrating **34** years as a Gyro.

Gerry Glassford was introduced to Gyro in 1990 by Dick Ogilvie. Over the last **33** years he served as President in 1997-98, and District Governor in 2002-2003.

All Gyros are “founders” because they have continued the wheel of friendship.

Bruce Swanson introduced **Dr. Lorne Tyrrell**, a distinguished Professor at the University of Alberta.

He is the Founding Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology. Beginning in 1986, he focused his research on viral hepatitis. His work on the development of antiviral therapy for chronic hepatitis B was supported by Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Glaxo Canada. It resulted in the licensing of the first oral antiviral agent to treat chronic hepatitis B infection - lamivudine - in 1998. Today, lamivudine is licensed in over 200 countries worldwide for the treatment of hepatitis B virus (HBV). He was also a cofounder, along with Drs. Norman David Kneteman Mercer, of a biotech company - KMT Hepatech Inc. based on the first non-primate animal model for hepatitis C virus (HCV).

Dr. Tyrrell was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta from 1994–2004.

Since leaving the Deanship in 2004, Dr. Tyrrell has taken on a number of important board positions in healthcare in Alberta and Canada. These include the Chair of the Board of the Institute of Health Economics, Chair of the Gairdner Foundation Board, and member of the Research Advisory Council for the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. He also has been appointed to the Science Advisory Board to Health Canada.

Dr. Tyrrell maintains active research programs in viral-host interactions and the development of an HCV vaccine. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed papers.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, he has worked on vaccines, diagnostics, and antivirals for SARS-CoV-2. He is a member of the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force that advises the Federal Government on the selection of COVID-19 vaccines based on efficacy, safety, and timely availability for Canada.

Dr. Tyrrell spoke of the three great enemies that the world faced 100 years ago” **fever, famine, and war**. By far the greatest and most terrible was fever. The WHO in 2019 listed the Top Ten Global Threats to Human Health:

- Air pollution and climate change
- Noncommunicable diseases, such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease
- Influenza
- Fragile and vulnerable settings, such as regions affected by drought and conflict
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Ebola and high-threat pathogens
- Weak primary care
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Dengue
- HIV

The **Black Death** was a **bubonic plague** occurring in Eurasia and North Africa from 1346 to 1353. It was the most fatal in human history and up to 200 million people died out of an estimated world population of 475 million.

Other major pandemics were: Small Pox Epidemic 1870-74, Cholera 1871, Russian Flu 1889-90, Spanish Flu 1918-19, H3N2 Pandemic 1968, HIV/AIDS 1981, SARS 2002-04.

The **CORONVIRUS Covid 19 Pandemic** has likely claimed more than 8 million lives over the last three years.

New infectious diseases are occurring about every 40 years and about one new virus is discovered each year. Public health measures are required to control the spread of these new viruses along with the development of vaccines.

The 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to **Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman** for their discoveries concerning nucleoside base modifications that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19. The discoveries by the two Nobel Laureates were critical for developing effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 during the pandemic that began in early 2020. Through their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our

understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system, the laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times.

Dr. Tyrrell outlined the key events following the breakout of Covid 19. In one year, a vaccine was developed and approved for use. Viruses will continue to change, especially influenza and corona viruses. Pandemic preparedness is critical, especially vaccine acceptance. Anti-vaxers account for 5% of the population and about 15% have vaccine hesitancy. The medical community has and will continue to take the time to listen and provide advice on the benefits of vaccines.

Fred Schulte and **Nestor Slipchuk**, President of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club thanked Dr. Tyrrell for an excellent presentation.



Dr. Lorne Tyrrell

Fred Schulte

Fast Fred

Upcoming Events:

Gyro District VIII – 2023 CURLARAMA, Canmore, November 3-5.

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Derrick Golf and Winter Club,
November 21st.**

Speaker: Professor Geoffrey Rockwell

Topic: Artificial Intelligence, People and Society

Team Leader: David Burnett