



**THE GYRO CLUB OF
EDMONTON**

100th ANNIVERSARY

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President - Dunc Mills

Past President - Chuck Gerhart

1st Vice-President - Ron Trant

Secretary - Barry Walker

Treasurer - David Burnett

Directors - Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,

**Dan Hasinoff, Martin Marshall, and Peter
Carter (Ex-Officio)**

Database Administrator - John Ross

Gyrolog Editor - Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

The formation of a GYRO Club in Edmonton was first talked about by **Reg Henry** and **Harry Fuller** in the early months of 1921. An organizational meeting was held at the Hudson's Bay building in April 1921. At this meeting, the plan and idea of a Gyro Club was fully discussed, and the formation of the Gyro Club of Edmonton was decided upon. Twenty-three gentlemen were in attendance.

Petition - April 22 1921

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
GYRO CLUBS
PETITION

We, the undersigned being the entire membership of an organization in the city of EDMONTON, which organization has adopted a constitution in substantial accord with the uniform Gyro Constitution, approved by the Executive Council of the International Association of Gyro Clubs, a copy of which Constitution as well as of the by-laws under which said organization will operate, properly certified to by the President and Secretary of said organization is hereto attached, do hereby respectfully petition the Executive Council of the International Association of Gyro Clubs to grant said organization a charter as a Gyro Club under the name of "Gyro Club of Edmonton", and accompany this petition with the sum of Twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in part payment of the first annual membership dues for said club.

NAMES	BUSINESS ADDRESS	Business Classification
1. R. Henry	Boyley House Co	Furniture
2. J. Hoff	Huff General Bldg	Builder Supplies
3. J. J. ...	City ...	Newspaper
4. J. ...	Edmonton ...	Wholesale
5. J. ...	Allen Theatre	Moving Picture Theatre
6. L. E. Boyley	Boyley Shoe Store	Shoes Retail
7. J. ...	Green ...	Wholesale Groceries
8. J. ...	Chiquin Allopp Co. Ltd.	Bonds Investments
9. J. ...	M. J. ...	Accountant
10. J. ...	McDermid ...	Engraver
11. J. ...	...	Ladies Wear Mfg.
12. R. T. Washburn	416 W. Lead Block	Surgeon
13. B. F. Macgregor	10623-109 th Street	Local Dealer
14. J. ...	...	Wholesale Dry Goods
15. J. ...	...	Retail Clothing
16. H. B. ...	416 Empire Block	Barrister
17. W. ...	Weston Victoria Bldg. Bldg.	Manager of Magazine
18. J. ...	"Bulletin" ...	Newspaper
19. J. ...	Mundy ...	Transportation & Dramatic Arts
20. R. D. ...	Dept. of Agriculture	Civil Servant
21. D. ...	502 ...	Physician (Children)
22. J. ...	University of Alberta	Printing
23. W. B. ...	Great Western Bazaar	Manufacturer of ...
24. J. ...	11239-96 th St.	Contractor
25. J. ...	...	Real Estate
R. M. ...	...	...
W. G. Hardy	University of Alberta	Teacher

Certificate by President and Secretary to Constitution and By-laws

GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Province ~~STATE~~ OF Alberta. }
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Canada. }

We, the undersigned, F.R. Henry and H.E. Fuller
do hereby certify that we are the duly elected and qualified President and Secretary, respectively,
of an organization of persons who have adopted and signed a Constitution and also By-laws for
the purpose of organizing our Association in the city of Edmonton, and ~~state~~ **prov**
of Alberta to be known as the "Gyro Club of Edmonton";
that the said Constitution and By-laws herewith submitted and hereto attached, consisting of 7
typewritten pages, is a true, correct and complete copy of the Constitution and By-laws adopted
by said organization at a meeting held in the said city of Edmonton on the
Twenty second day of April, 1921; and that the signatures
affixed to said petition are the signatures of the entire present membership of said petitioning
organization.

F.R. Henry
President

H.E. Fuller
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
29 day of April, 1921

Albert A. ...
Notary Public



EDMONTON GYRO CLUB FOUNDERS

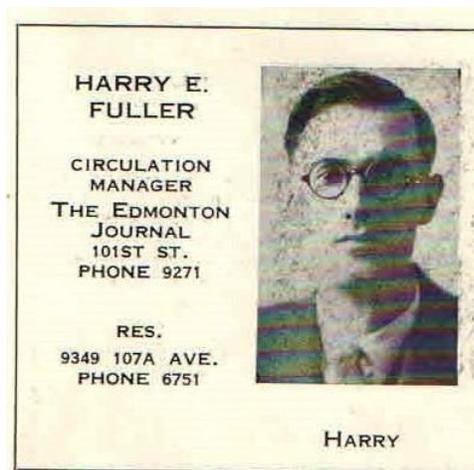
Captain Frederick Reginald Henry



Reg Henry was born in Edmonton on February 22, 1895. He was the son of William Thomas Henry, Major of Edmonton. He was enlisted in late 1914 and later commissioned as a scouting officer into the 49th Canadian Infantry Battalion. He then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and became a Lieut. Observer on DH4 daylight bombers with No. 55 Squadron. Henry and his pilot Captain Robert A Logan were shot down on 8th April 1917 and were both taken as POWs to Schweidnitz German POW camp. (Captain Henry was wounded and spent a long period in a German

hospital). Reg married Clara Jane Henry (nee Wilson) on March 15, 1919, in Los Angeles, California. Unfortunately, Reg Henry died on March 15, 1925 due to a duodenal ulcer and lobar pneumonia.

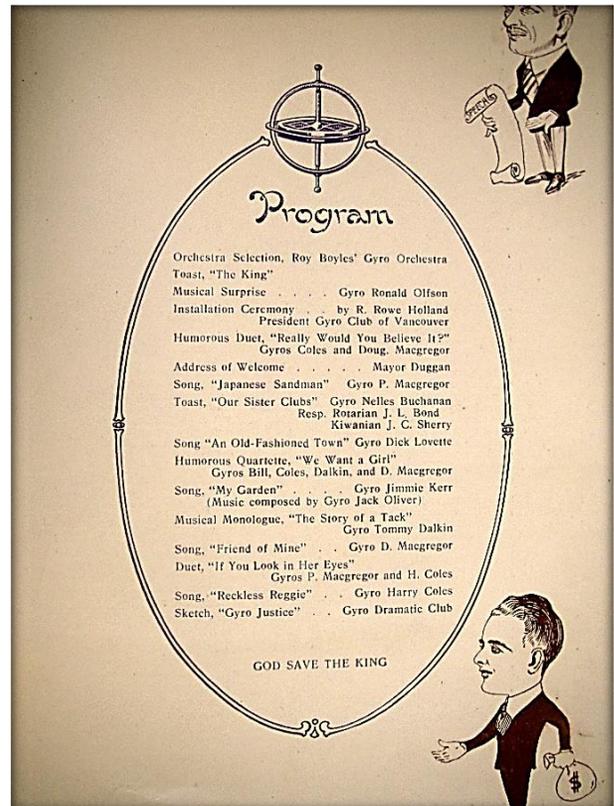
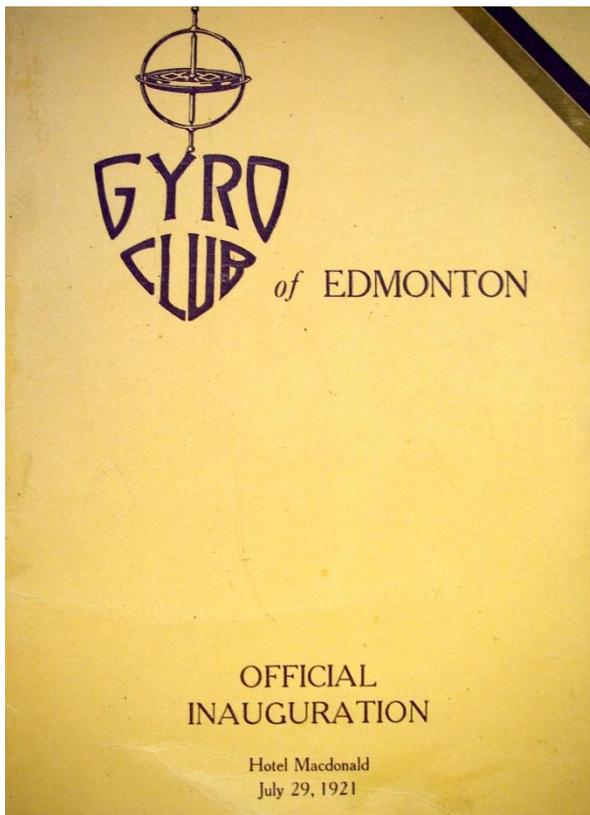
The following memorial notice appeared in the Lethbridge Herald on October 1, 1925: *Establishment of a memorial to the late Reginald Henry, founder, and first president of Edmonton Gyro, has been decided upon. The memorial will take the form of annual scholarships of \$25 each to the boy and girl coming highest each year in grade 8 classes in the city of Edmonton, and the necessary revenue will be derived from the income from a fund of \$1000 which Gyro members individually have undertaken to subscribe.*



Harry E. Fuller

Harry Fuller joined the Edmonton Journal on December 18, 1911 and became Circulation Manager in 1916. He died January 23rd, 1928.

Chartering of the new club with 32 members took place on Friday, July 29th at the Hotel MacDonald. Vancouver Club President, Rowe Holland, was the Installing Officer. **Reg Henry** was installed as President, **Bert Huff** as Vice-President, **Harry Fuller** as Secretary and **Stu Johnstone** as Treasurer. The celebration was a gala affair complete with a gourmet meal and orchestra. Edmonton Mayor J.J. Duggan delivered the welcome address. Representatives from the local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs were present to wish the young Gyro organization long life and prosperity. A toast to these "sister" clubs was delivered by charter member **Nelles Buchanan**. The gavel, presented by Rowe Holland, was made of material from the old Hudson's Bay steamer 'Beaver'. the first ship to sail into Burrard Inlet of present-day Vancouver and one of the first steamers on the Pacific Coast.



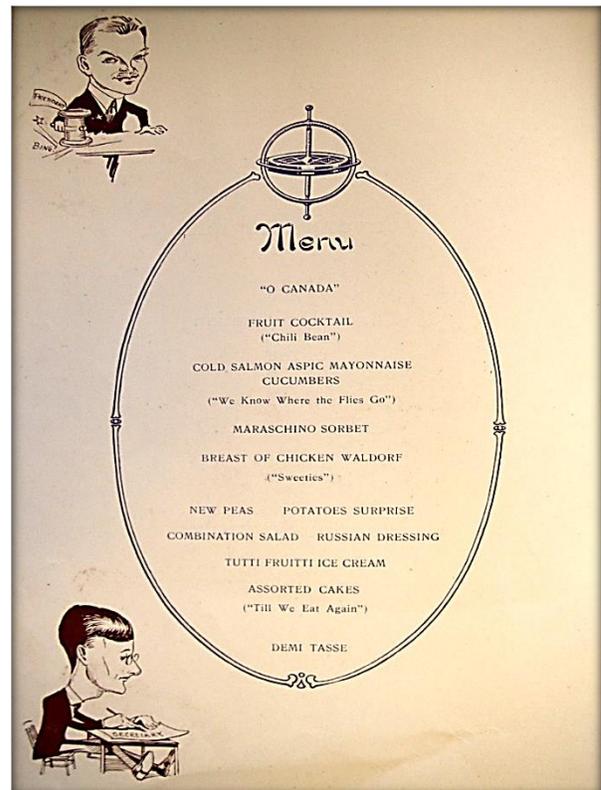
So, who were these 32 men who attended the Charter Meeting of the Gyro Club of Edmonton on **July 29th, 1921**? They were young men under the age of 35 who represented many of the business professions operating in Edmonton.

James Bill, Printer; Roy Boyles, Shoe Store Manager; Nelles Buchanan, Barrister; Cecil Coleman; Harry Coles, Auto Distributor; T.W. Dalkin; John Dawe, Engraver; George Day; Fred Dewey, Photo Engraver-McDermid Studios Ltd.

Albert Emery, Women's Wear Manufacturer; Harry Fuller, Circulation Manager-Edmonton Journal; G.W. Hardy, University of Alberta; Reg Henry, Furniture Company; Bert Huff, Sand and Gravel Company Owner; Stu Johnstone, Chartered Accountant; James Kerr; Doug Leitch, Physician; Dick Lovette, Builder; Charles MacDonald, Life Insurance; Heath MacDonald; C.P. McGregor; R.D. McGregor; Bill Muir, Outdoor Advertising-Hook Signs Ltd.; Ron Olfson, Wholesale Footwear; John Oliver, Edmonton Bulletin; Joe Peacock, Wholesale Drugs; Rush Purdy; William Shaw, Clothing Manufacturing; R.S. Washburn; Wilkie Whitelaw; Reg Whyte; Emory Wood, Investments.

The annual Club membership fee was set at \$7.50. The age limit for club members was set at 35 but on March 13, 1924 that was increased to 40. At this stage of development, the Club did not want two or more members from the same type of business. The intent apparently was to extend the membership of Gyro to every walk of life.

One of the first things to come before the club was the "Objective". On August 9th, 1921 only 11 days after receiving their charter, it was decided to provide "**Playgrounds for the Children**".



"Though they were established primarily as a friendship club, the members thought they would like to become involved in Edmonton's growth. The club capitalized on the popular notion that society should focus more on children. The motto of Gyro was "Power, Poise and Purpose" which were high ideals, but when translated by the Edmonton Club into "Playgrounds for the Children", it was a realistic one. The Great War had increased the awareness of Canadians about their health since many had to be rejected for military service for health reasons. Consequently, the community accepted this initiative with delight and gratitude." (Based on report by D.F. Howell, PhD, 1974 "Gyro Club Activities in Edmonton, 1921-1949")

The first chairman of the Edmonton Gyro Club's Playground Committee was Bert Huff, who owned the A. J. Huff Sand and Gravel Co. He supervised the purchase and placement of the equipment in **Playground No. 1**, on **Patricia Square** at 108A Avenue and 95 Street. On the 19th of August 1922, only thirteen months after club chartering, Bert led a Playground Parade to officially open Patricia Playground; Gyro Playground #1. *"The Mayor, while accepting the Park for the City, lauded the Gyro Club for its forthright concern and encouraged others to do likewise, suggesting that "any organization that wanted to take up such a project could have the land for the asking as the city had lots to spare"* (D.F. Howell, PhD, 1974)

Some years ago, the name of this park was changed to "Giovanni Caboto Park", in deference to the large population of Italian descendants now living in this area.



Playground No. 1 Patricia Park

On June 7, 1924, **Playground No. 2** located on **Kitchener Square** at 114 Street and 103 Ave. was established. Two weeks later came the official opening of **Playground No. 3** on **Tipton Square** on the corner of 109th Street and 81st Avenue. Maintenance and supervision alone cost the club \$4000 annually. Patricia Park with improvements cost \$3500 to construct and equip, Kitchener represented an expense of \$2,077 and Tipton one of \$2200. Wading pools were also built at the three parks at a cost of \$1700, \$1100, and \$1110.

"By 1925, the Club and the City came to a formal agreement dividing responsibility concerning the parks." The City of Edmonton continued to provide the land, Gyro members did the rest: landscaping, providing the equipment, painting, etc. Full time supervisors were hired, and a committee appointed to check the playgrounds periodically. "In 1928, this agreement was again formalized." (D.F. Howell, PhD, 1974)



Members of the Gyro Club at the Official Opening of Gyro Playground No. 3: Tipton Park, June 21, 1924.
Left to Right: Ancus Douglas (Chairman Playground Committee, Ted Mitchell (Sports Committee), Alex Mitchell (President), Bob Muir (Secretary), and J.W. Clifton (Chief Supervisor Gyro playground). Source: City of Edmonton Archives /File EA-211-1/G.H. Rennie #A74-63. Courtesy of Paulina Cecilia Retamales's Ochoa Gyro Club Playgrounds and Children's Recreation in Edmonton, Alberta: Outdoor Play, Civic Life, and Urban Reform, 1922-1950



Children on Merry-Go-Round in Tipton Park Gyro Playground No. 3

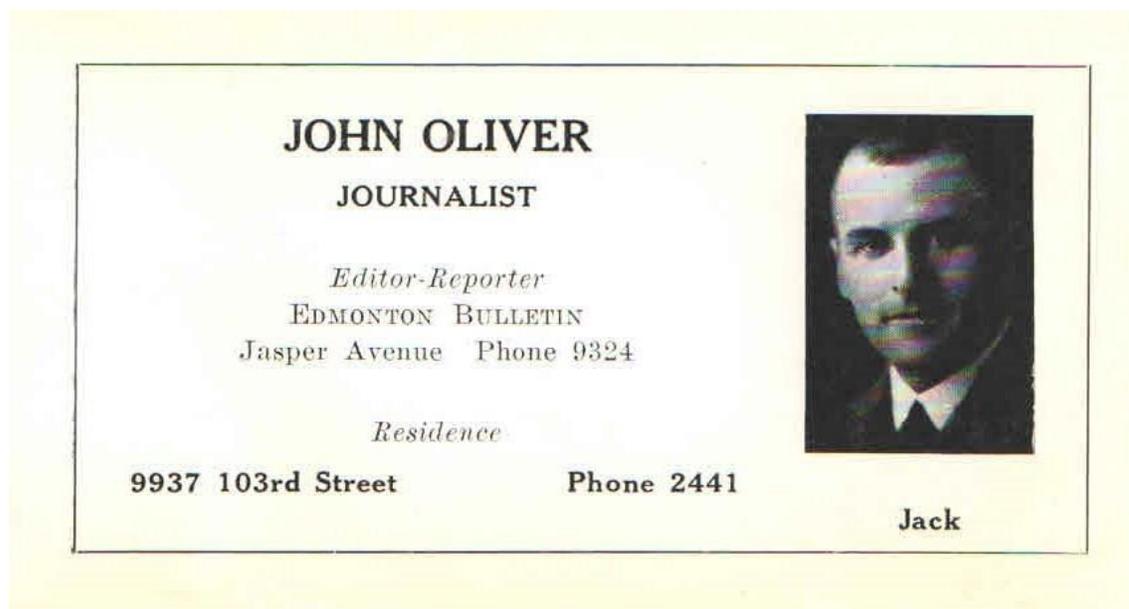
Playground No. 4 for Crippled Children was built at the **University Hospital** in 1930. To fund these lofty initiatives, the Club turned to the idea of operating an annual carnival in the streets of downtown Edmonton. The Club purchased some of their own "wheels of chance" and other carnival equipment and in the early 1930's the first link of a long chain connecting **Wes** and **Bryce Van Dusen** to Gyro was forged. Wes and Bryce helped to set up the "wheels" and to train the Gyros in their operation. Later, when the Club moved the carnival from the streets to the Trocadero (a building located on 103rd Street south of the Hudson's Bay), Bryce helped to organize the Gyro carnival. He and Wes assisted with the set-up and rented "wheels" for the Gyros to operate. The monies raised went to the Gyro Playgrounds Development Fund.

"Uncontrollable circumstances would intervene and it would be a long time before another Gyro playground would be built. The Depression, drought and the Second World War stalled the building of the fifth playground. At the war's end a barrage of activity would see five more playgrounds offered to Edmonton's children." No. 5, Cromdale (Borden Park) and No. 6, Jasper Place opened in 1948. In 1949, No. 7, King Edward; No.8, Riverdale; and No.9 North Edmonton (Westwood) opened. (D.F. Howell, PhD, 1974)

"The need for the Gyro Club's assistance in providing playgrounds, in the meantime was being subverted by a lack of funds due to rising costs and a strengthening of municipal responsibility for recreation areas. By 1940, decreasing Gyro funds forced the city to accept maintenance of grounds and buildings; thereby amending the 1928 agreement between the Gyro Club and the City. However, the Club would continue as before to supervise the playgrounds and to purchase, maintain and operate the playground equipment with the help of a \$600.00 grant from the city. The Edmonton Recreation Commission was established through Bylaw 1069 in November 1944. Once the City of Edmonton Recreation and Parks Department was organized in 1946, they took over operation and maintenance of the Gyro Playground Parks.

The Gyro Club of Edmonton held steadfast to their original objective for 25 years until Parks and Recreation took the lead." (D.F. Howell, PhD, 1974)

The Edmonton Club continued to increase its membership. At the end of 1921, they had 46 members; 1921-22, 61; 1922-23, 64; 1923-24, 82 and by 1928-29 they reached 95 members. Membership dwindled to 56 members in 1934 but rebounded again in 1948 to 80, increasing to 102 in 1951-52 and maintaining 80 plus members in the 50's, 60's and 70's.



In September 1923, the first edition of the Club bulletin, **The Gyro Log**, a name suggested by **Alex Mitchell** was prepared by **Jack Oliver**. A re-typing of the original text follows:

GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
EDMONTON
ALBERTA

Sept. 21st, 1923

The Gyro Log

Fellow Gyro:

Lamp the heading of this epistle. It is Alex. Mitchell's suggestion and will be used henceforth until someone comes along with a better one or until the writer forgets to put it in.

All roads lead to the Hudsonia at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday next. As there has not being a hundred per cent attendance at any Club meeting since we entertained the Cleveland Favorite-Knits and our own Commercial Grads, the executive thought that another complete meeting would be in order, so at the next gathering we will have as our honored guests, the Toronto Maple Leafs, challengers for the "World's Ladies Basketball Title", and the Commercial Grads, of whom we are all justly proud. That I am sure, will bring a full turnout. Incidentally, so that you may not be financially embarrassed at the door, the price of the lunch will be 75 cents.

It has been suggested that the Club give a dance for all those who assisted us in our recent, successful Carnival. This will be brought up at the next meeting, so come prepared for any course of action you want taken.

In last week's letter, a report was asked for from all those who had charge of booths at the Carnival. Up to Tuesday noon, Charlie Macdonald has received five. What's the use of me putting these things in the letter if you do not take any action? We might as well conserve the paper and ink supply.

There's a young fellow named Bill,
Of scrapping he's ne'er has his fill;
He simply loves talking,
Haranguing and balking,
O, Boy, but that lad can't sit still.

First notice for:

Lloyd W. Domm, Manager, Good year Tire Co'y.
Griff Morris, Prop. Morris School of Physical Culture.
James Lewis, Ass't M'g'r, Wilson Stationary Co. Ltd.
Charles Flavin, Assistant King's Printer.

Au Revoir,

Jack Oliver

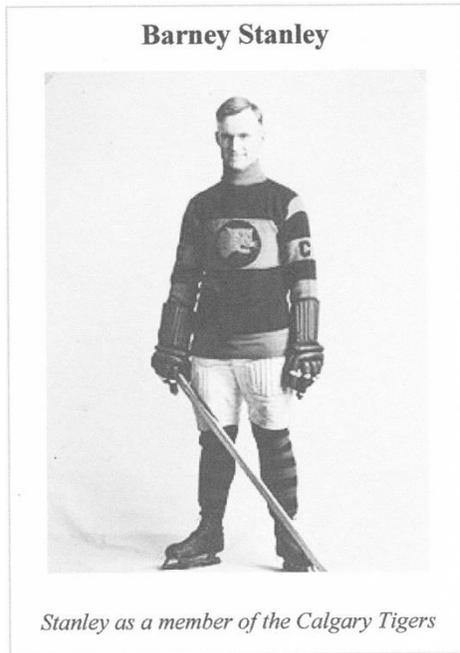


Figure 1 September 8, 1925

Russell 'Barney' Stanley who joined the Edmonton Club in 1921 was a member of the Vancouver Millionaires and scored the winning goal for the 1915 Stanley Cup. He continued his hockey career playing for the Calgary Tigers, Regina Capitals, Edmonton Eskimos in the 1920's, was Manager of the Chicago Blackhawks in 1927-28 and finished his last season playing for the Minneapolis Miners in 1929. He was universally known as a crafty performer and dangerous scorer. Stanley was still active in the club in 1946 and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1962 and died at the age of 77 in 1971. Barney's son Don founded Stanley Engineering which is now known as Stantec.

The Edmonton Gyro Club was fortunate to have several long-standing members. **Stanley Noel Smith** holds the record for the longest membership to date, 1928-1996 (68 years).

STANLEY N. SMITH
BOOTS AND SHOES

Manager

SAMPLE SHOE STORE LIMITED
10128 Jasper Avenue Phone 2102

Residence

10217 132nd Street Phone 83381



Stan

The following "Why I joined GYRO" was written by this amazing gentleman in 1991.

In 1919 I had returned to civilian life after three years in the Canadian Army, two of them in action with the infantry on the western front in France. I had formed a Damon and Pythias friendship with a group of men, none of the survivors of that group lived in or near my home city of Edmonton. Family members had moved away. Discharged while still under 20 years of age, I sought friends among my school pals, who to me, having lived with mature men, seemed callow youth. I failed to strike a rapport with older businessmen, I was lonely.

A few years later, having established a small business, I was invited to service club luncheons. Emphasis placed on the fact that membership; in such would benefit me in business. That approach lacked appeal; I, being young and idealistic, considered I could hew my own way to success.

Two business associates invited me to a Gyro luncheon. I noted the friendly mood amongst the members, with banter and kidding. During the introduction of new members, no mention of business affiliation was mentioned, name badges just carried the members' name. The meeting was brief, and the talk given by a founding member dwelt on the principles of GYRO-the promulgation of friendship amongst individuals, provinces, states, and nations. I was impressed. After a second invitation my hosts informed me that they had presented my name as a prospective member and that I had been accepted.

I asked questions regarding what obligations I would have to shoulder, none of which seemed too arduous. They explained that each club had autonomy, being bound to the International by the bonds of friendship. I thought that surely amongst this seemingly happy crowd I could find a group of intimate friends which could replace the ones I had lost. I joined. My hopes of friendship for the past sixty-three years, has far surpassed my fondest expectations.

My introduction to Gyro in 1928 was by the Padre, Rev. Capt. K.C. Macleod. As he had also been my Padre during training in the army, he knew all my past history and brought laughter when relating some of my escapades. I soon found the camaraderie which I desired. The spirit of youth had been retained by the members, decorum existed when necessary, ebullience of fun and friendship dominated meetings. Members kidded one another unmercifully. Thin skinned ones soon learned to take buffets of wit and humour, in good fun as they were intended.

One ribbing I have never lived down was delivered to me by the Padre. His absence noted, the President asked me to say the blessing. As I arose the Padre stepped into the room, stood still with his head bowed, until I had finished. I gave

the Macbeth grace from Shakespeare: "Let good digestion wait on appetite, and health on both, Amen".

After lunch, the Padre strode across the room, eyes ablaze. Grabbing my lapels, he admonished me with these words: "Smith! Never let me hear you say that grace again, its agnostic. There is no mention of the Deity. It was not given to the glory of the Lord, merely to the glory of a little superficial knowledge of Stanley Noel Smith." How true, I have never repeated that grace.

The forming of an active enthusiastic Gyrette adjunct turned the club into a family social group. To most member's friendship between families became the norm. Sons of Gyros have formed another club, carrying on the tradition from generation to generation, hopefully on ad infinitum. Bereaved widows remained Gyrettes, membership in the group helping them to pass through the period of grief and sorrow.

As one ages, business acquaintances drop away, friendly neighbours move, contemporaries die. One may be able to enjoy all the amenities available in Gyro; a group of younger men, however, remain who are your friends willing to assist you when necessary. The twilight years may be enhanced by continued membership in this growing group of friends. The present drive to increase membership is commendable. Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.

Stanley Smith served as **President** of the club in **1943-44**. He wrote magnificent letters to his club and his friends; he contributed his ideas and his beliefs to the "letters to the editor" pages of our local newspaper and he shared his world view openly and joyfully. He passed away at the age of 97 on September 30, 1996.



Stanley was 11 years old in 1910 when he saw Halley's Comet.

DR. A. RUSSELL CARTER

President Gyro International 1952-53

Dr. A. Russell Carter (1952-53) passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the morning of October 15th, 1990.

The following eulogy was delivered by his close Edmonton Gyro friend and Past District Governor Gordon H. Rennie:

Thank you, Dr. Armstrong, for granting me this special honor. I hope the thoughts I express will perhaps reflect some of your own memories at this time. As we gather to pay our last respects to our good friend Russell Carter, no doubt you are thinking about his life and what it has meant to each of you.

This kind, caring, compassionate man was many things to many people, and a good friend to all. It was my good fortune to first become acquainted with him some fifty years ago, when he was playing his favorite sport at the Highlands Golf Course. Russ was an excellent golfer, a keen competitor, despite the fact that he played from the wrong side of the tee. For several years he played in the city inter-club "A." team competitions as a Highlands Club representative, together with his longtime friend, former Police Chief Reg Jennings.

Perhaps some of you may have known him as a neighbor in the Highlands district, where he and his beloved Ella resided for many years. Others may have benefitted from his professional skill as an optometrist, or maybe you knew him as a Mason or a Shriner, or perhaps you knew him as a highly regarded member of the Edmonton Gyro Club.

Russ Carter was a man of exemplary character, very modest, almost a shy person, but whose personality was warm, sincere and he had a delightful sense of humor. Whatever activity he undertook, he did so with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, both as a member and a leader. This is readily attested by his dedication and devotion in his Masonic Lodge: by his many years with various units in the Shrine and his work with the Shrine Jam Band, which he dearly loved. He was a fine musician, playing the piano and the organ, and he was known as "Mr. Banjo" in Gyro circles. He was called this because he was never without his banjo at Gyro Conventions, where he was always willing to entertain his friends.

Russ and Ella loved to entertain a houseful of friends, and at some time during the

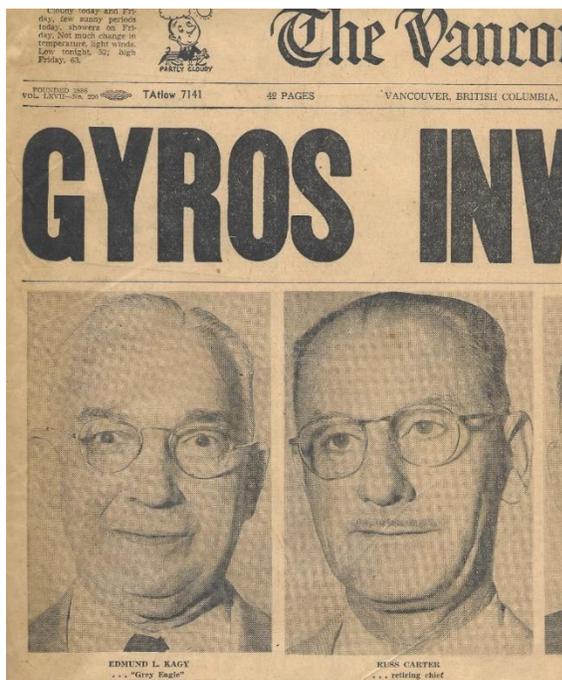
evening Russ would play the piano, without the benefit of sheet music. All you had to do was to request a tune and away he would go; all of which would end up in a song fest.

He was a member of the Edmonton Gyro Club for **67 years** and was **Club President in 1941**. He served five years as an International Officer in Gyro, culminating as **International President in 1952-53**. During that period of time, he and Ella travelled all over Canada and the United States visiting all the Gyro Clubs in both countries. They created a degree of friendship throughout that is still remembered and highly regarded. Russ Considered laughter to be the best medicine.

He would be happy to be called upon at a Gyro meeting to close the session with a story. He would pretend to be totally surprised and unprepared, but then he would regale us with a home spun story delivered in his own inimitable style, from his "little black book." One of life's greatest privileges is to have friends. Russ's philosophy was to have a friend you must first be one. This the legacy he left to us all. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Russell's family relations in their time of sorrow. May the happy memories of the past sustain them in the future.

And so, we say goodbye to this fine, humble, highly respected man, who lived by the Golden Rule. He will be sadly missed – but ever remembered.

A retyped copy from the November/December Gyroscope 1990



Ed Kagy

Russ Carter



**Howard Sharp Russ Carter Mort Morter Marty Larson Dick Ogilvie Bill Graham
1988 (photo Marty Larson)**

Nelles Buchanan, a charter member of the Edmonton Club came to Edmonton with his parents in 1899 from Crystal City, Manitoba. He served in World War I as a member of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and received the Military Cross in 1917 for gallantry in action. In 1921, Nelles received his Law degree from the University of Alberta, joined the Gyro fraternity the same year and served as President of the club in 1923-24. In **1925** he became the first **District Governor** from the Edmonton Club. He was named King's Counsel in 1941 and on April 12, 1952, became a judge in the Northern Court of Alberta. Nelles continued to play important roles in the club and was the Chairman of the Gyro Scholarship Committee in 1969. Gyro Founders Scholarships of \$50 were awarded to young schoolboys. Nelles had completed **65 years** of Gyro membership at the time of his death in 1986.



Charter Members Nelles Buchanan (left)
and Stuart Johnstone. (see remarks of
Stu - quoted in secty's report March 23-1943)

Wes and Ruth Van Dusen

Wes Van Dusen was born in Griffin, Saskatchewan in 1907, one of six boys and four girls in the family. Work was scarce during the 1930's, so he climbed aboard a CPR boxcar and "rode the rails" to Calgary. Here he found work as an electrician, wiring homes and garages. In 1932, Wes sent word to his younger brother **Bryce** to join him. Bryce, in turn, climbed aboard a box car and enjoyed a low-cost but chilly ride to Calgary. Wes eventually headed to Edmonton where he started up the Sun Specialty Company which included carnival equipment. A call went south to Bryce and in 1934 he took a bus to Edmonton.



The so called "Dirty Thirties" were very difficult economically and not much better for Canadians psychologically, but on a social level people still knew how to find ways to enjoy life. Fairs and carnivals were popular because people could gather to test their skills at plowing or horse riding. Others could test the quality of their preserves against others or display some of their handicrafts. Children would ride the merry-go-rounds, or the Ferris Wheels and the adults could try their luck on games of chance such as roulette or crown and anchor wheels. Into this world moved the Van Dusen brothers. They managed to buy a few "wheels" and other carnival paraphernalia and toured the province adding their "magic" to the wonderful world of fairs and carnivals.

Bryce would often go down to Calgary to help the Calgary Gyro Club operate their carnival. It was a natural shift for the Calgary Stampede to benefit from their knowledge. The Stampede Association rented Van Dusen equipment and the Van Dusen's trained their employees on the ways to operate the "wheels" as well as other fair equipment. As the fairs flourished, many of the young people trained by

Bryce and Wes over the years have gone on to become leaders in the world of casino operation.

Today casinos are found everywhere in Canada, but this was not so a half century ago. The Van Dusen brothers started the first legal casino ever operated in Canada. The years passed and the company name changed to Acme Novelty Ltd. with branches in Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Saskatoon, and Regina. In 1968 the business was sold to Neonex which was owned by Jimmy Pattison.

In 1940, Wes became a member of the Gyro Club of Edmonton. Since the club did not allow two more people from the same business sector, Bryce was not nominated for membership by his brother Wes until 1965. Wes served as **President in 1948-49** and received the **Award of Merit** for outstanding service to Gyro in 1993. Wes retired and moved to Vancouver in the late sixties and started the Kerrisdale Travel Agency. Wes joined the Vancouver Gyro Club and was an Honourary Member of the Edmonton Club until his death in December 2001 having been a member of Gyro for **61 years**.

(Above story about the Van Dusen's was taken from a tribute to Bryce Van Dusen by Gerry Glassford [June 6, 2006] and a memorial [2001] about Wes Van Dusen by Bryce Van Dusen)

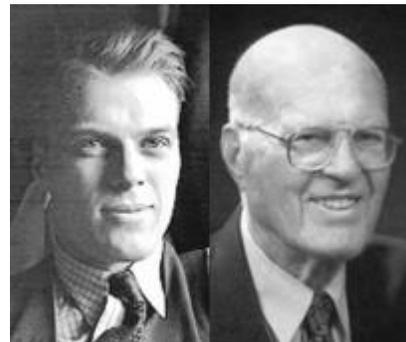


Bryce Van Dusen 1967

David Duchak was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1913 as one of eight children in the Duchak family. He was blessed with wonderful eye-hand coordination and excelled in team sports including football, hockey, and baseball. Dave's athleticism and leadership skills shone brightest in hockey. Skilled young hockey players were not paid to play except in the NHL, but they were assisted by being provided employment. His talents gained him work in Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Trail and Calgary. We all know of the importance of the Stanley Cup as a symbol of hockey supremacy in North America. The Allen Cup was however the pinnacle of amateur hockey supremacy in Canada and winning it was Dave's dream. He achieved it in 1937-38 as he led the Trail Smoke Eaters to the cup, and he did it again as the Manager of the Calgary Stampeders in 1945-47.



In 1943, his friend Watson Hook invited him to join the Calgary Gyro Club. Dave had been a member of the Calgary Junior Chamber of Commerce since 1939 and he knew that many of members of this group were also Gyros. Dave continued his employment with the Calgary Brewing and Malting Co. until he was transferred to Edmonton in 1962 to run the Brewery's soft drink plant. Dave joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton and stayed with the two Gyro Club's for **67**



years because of the wonderful friendships he had shared, because of the social life that allowed him and his wife Lauraine to share the pleasure of Gyro/Gyrette square dancing, football pre- and post-game barbeques, and golf. His greatest satisfaction from being a Gyro was "the many deep, long-lasting, great friendships I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy". Dave was a key member of the club's Annual Hockey Pool which raised funds for charities that help those in need. Dave passed away in his 97th year in July 2010. (Gerry Glassford, Tribute to Dave Duchak, June 6, 2006)

Roy Miller joined the club in 1941 and took on the position of **Secretary** for 10 years in 1942. He was also District VIII Secretary-Treasurer in 1943-44 and 1950-51. At the same time Roy took on the role of **Club Historian** and compiled/organized an amazing set of documents dating back to the formation of the club in 1921. They now reside in the City of Edmonton Archives. In 1950, he was given the **Honour Key Award**, Gyro's highest recognition. Roy assumed the position of 1st Vice-President in 1954 but was not able to take on the President's duties the next year due to illness.



April 28, 1952

City of Edmonton Archives EA-MS-387

Back Row: **Lorne Graban**, **Troy Beaver**, **John Halford**, **Roy Miller**, **Jack Agnew**, **Dave Francis**, **Bernie Brown**, **Alf Naunton**.

Front Row: **Russ Carter**, **Frank Newson**, **Jim Duncan**, **Bob Sheldon**, **Steve Schmaltz**

Gordon Rennie was born in Croydon, England on April 24, 1912, nine days after his biological father went down with the Titanic. His mother re-married and the family moved to Canada and Edmonton where Gordon was raised with three brothers and three sisters. He attended five different schools and met his future wife Ivy at McCauley Public School. They both worked to help their families during the Depression years. The Canadian Forces needed young men and Gordon joined the 92nd Battery, Canadian Artillery on September 20, 1940, married Ivy on March 15, 1941, and embarked for England in the fall of that year leaving behind a pregnant young wife. Their daughter, Jean was not to see her father until 1945.

A whole new future opened for Gordon when he returned to Edmonton. After a chance meeting with an overseas army friend, he started working for Veteran's Affairs. This group helped thousands of returning veterans to find work, land, medical care, and educational opportunities. He remained with Veteran's Affairs until his retirement in 1973. One day in 1950, a friend, Harold Wright suggested to Gordon that he attend a Gyro luncheon. Gordon met **Russ Carter** and **Stew Graham** and as they say the rest is history. He became so immersed in Gyro, that over **60 years**, Gordon became to be known as **Mr. Gyro**. In 1960-61, he was Club President and District Governor in 1965-66. He was given the **Award of Merit** in 1969, the **Honour Key Award** in 1985 and presented personally by Bud Mitchell with the first **International Gyro of the Year Award** in 1991. Gordon also took on the responsibilities of **Club Historian**, following in the steps of Roy Miller. He was also Gyrolog Editor for many years until the reins were passed on to **Allan Douglas** in 1995.

Gord Rennie epitomized the Gyro belief of friendship without qualifications. He was interested in everyone, was non-judgmental, open, outgoing, and sincere. No task was too small for Gordon to accept if it was "for the good of Gyro"; no challenge was too great for him to accept. In the world of Gyro, a handshake was all Gordon ever needed, no other qualification was necessary! (Gerry Glassford, Tribute to Gordon Rennie, June 6, 2006)

Gord Rennie passed away on October 18, 2010, at the age of 98.

In the past 100 years, hundreds and hundreds of men have joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton. Club records confirm that 440 members contributed to our Gyro fraternity over a 54-year period from 1921-1975. About 20% of these members joined other Gyro clubs across Canada and some even returned.

Some stayed for a short time and others found long-term friendship and a need to stay connected with a remarkable group of like-minded individuals.

These men came from all walks of life, checked their egos at the door and participated in countless meetings and events, all the while enduring good-natured ribbing as described by Stanley Noel Smith earlier in this report.



Photo Jean Warrack 1989

Harry and Ruby Mills

Gordon and Ivy Rennie

This association was enhanced by the participation of their wives (Gyrettes) who contributed greatly to the success of the club and attended mixed social events and conventions. Life-long family friendships grew from these associations and as senior members passed on, the Gyrettes continued to support the surviving widows.

A list of some of the other long-time members of the club follows:

Stew Graham, sponsored by Russ Carter in 1940, President 1962-63, died October 1997, **57 years**.

Marty Larson, sponsored by Wes Van Dusen in 1964, President 1974-75, District Governor 1986, Award of Merit 1989, Jimmie Hubbell Award (External Expansion) 1992, International President 1993, Honour Key Award 1994, Lifetime Achievement Award 2005, **57 years**, still active.

Rev. Bill Graham sponsored by Cyril Shaw, 1954, Club Padre for many years died March 2004, **50 years**.

David Burnett sponsored by Marty Larson in 1973, President 1988-89, Award of Merit 2001, District Secretary-Treasurer 2002, **48 years**, still active.

Harry Mills sponsored by Herb Hamly 1948, President 1973-74, Award of Merit 1982, died December 1995, **47 years**.

Mort Morter sponsored by Marty Larson in 1972, President 1985-86, died April 4, 2019, at age 90, **47 years**.

Dan Lawton sponsored by Bill Hudson, Victoria Gyro Club in 1956, President 1975-76, resigned 2002, **46 years**.

Bryce Van Dusen sponsored by Wes Van Dusen 1965, President 1969-70, died November 2011 at age 96, **46 years**.

Allan Warrack sponsored by Gord Rennie 1980, President 1984-85, **40 years**, still active.

John Ross sponsored by Allan Warrack 1982, President 1992-93, Historian 2001 to present, Award of Merit 2003, **39 years**, still active.

Roger Russell sponsored by Marty Larson 1983, President 1990-91, Award of Merit 2009, **38 years**, still active.

Ernie Siegel sponsored by Cyril Cormick 1973, President 1979-80, died December 2010 at age 95, **37 years**.

Larry Dobson sponsored by Marty Larson 1985, President 2001-02, **36 years**, still active.

Andy Friderichsen sponsored by Roger Russell 1984, died October 17, 2019, at age 98, **35 years**.

Barry Walker, sponsored by Marty Larson 1986, President 1994-95, Award of Merit 2001, Bud Mitchell Award 2006, **35 years**, still active.

Vern Sadd sponsored by Al Lee in 1969, resigned 2003, died July 8, 2011, at age 97, **34 years**.

Tom Douglas sponsored by Howard Wilson 1971, President 1982-83, died December 2004, **33 years**.

Mike Matei sponsored by Marty Larson 1988, President 1995-96, Award of Merit 2017, **33 years**, still active.

Jack Ellis sponsored by Merrill Morstad 1989, President 1998-99, **32 years**, still active.

Gerry Glassford sponsored by Dick Ogilvie 1990, President 1997-98, District Governor 2002-03, **31 years**, still active.

Gordon Robertson sponsored by John Pedden 1989, President 1999-00, died March 3, 2019, at age 93, **30 years**.

Allan Douglas sponsored by John Ross 1986, President 1996-97, died May 2015, **29 years**.

John Stroppa sponsored by Roger Russell 1985, President 1993-94, resigned April 2014 died May 7, 2017, **29 years**.

Larry Wang sponsored by Marty Larson 1992, **29 years**, semi-active.

Howard Wilson sponsored by Al Lee 1968, President 1972-73, resigned October 1996, **28 years**.

Boyd Slavik sponsored by Harry Mills 1969, President 1981-82, died Sept. 1997, **28 years**.

Roy Bennett sponsored by Allan Warrack 1990, President 2003-04, resigned April 30, 2018, **28 years**.

Larry Wang sponsored by Marty Larson 1992, **28 years**, semi-active.

Fred Schulte sponsored by John Ross 1994, President 2006-07, Award of Merit 2016, **27 years**, still active.

Bert Boren sponsored by Howard Wilson 1972, President 1980-81, died July 1997, **25 years**.

Ongoing Benevolence Activities

After the Club relinquished their role in the building of Gyro Playgrounds, efforts were turned to the provision of scholarships for Grade nine boys and support was also provided to students in arts, drama, and music. The Club sponsored **Marek Jablonski** for three years at the Julliard School of Music in New York City as concert pianist. Prior to 1980, the Gyros continued to raise funds through casinos and bingos. In 1975, **Harry and Ruby Mills** along with **Boyd Slavik** and **Bob Sheldon** started the **Hockey Pool** to raise money to help those in need. For the following 17 about 200 tickets per year were sold and raised \$26,000 which the Club used to

create a **Benevolence Fund**. In 1992, **Al** and **Bette McClure** took over the operation of the Hockey Pool with assistance from **Dave Duchak**, **Bob Lippe**, and **Marty Larson**. By the end of the 2003-04 hockey season, \$50,000 had been raised. The Hockey Pool continues to operate today under the leadership of **Dick Nichols**.

The Edmonton Club contributed funds to the building of **Gyro Playground No. 10** located behind the fire hall in Fort Edmonton Park. The Edmonton, Sherwood Park and Edmonton Crossroads Clubs attended the official opening of the playground on August 14, 1984.

The Club donated over \$13,000 to the establishment of **Ezio Faraone Park** which was built in 1992 to honour Edmonton Constable Faraone who was slain by an armed robber in 1990.

Funds were contributed to the Centre of Gerontology at the University of Alberta in the 1980's/1990's with matching dollars from the province to establish an endowment fund. In 1998 the Centre announced that it wished to establish undergraduate and graduate scholarships to encourage students to undertake study and research in aging related areas of interest. The **Gyro Club of Edmonton Undergraduate Scholarship (\$200) and Graduate Scholarship (\$300)** were established with the club's full approval. The Centre for Gerontology Endowment Fund continued to grow with periodic donations by the Club. In 2007 The Edmonton Club and the Alberta Centre on Aging agreed to increase the number of graduate scholarships. The Fund generates annual scholarships of \$1000 for undergraduate, \$1700 for Master's, and \$1800 for PhD.

In 2004, the Club agreed to take on the responsibility of organizing and holding the **7th Annual Drive for the Cure Prostate Cancer Golf Tournament** in partnership with the Edmonton Branch, Canadian Cancer Society. Under the leadership of **Marty Larson, David Burnett, Barry Walker** and dozens of other club volunteers, the golf tournament was a resounding success, and the club continued their commitment for three years. A net profit of \$200,000 was generated for Prostate Cancer Research.

In January 2007, an Ad Hoc Benevolence Fund Committee was established to develop a long-term plan for the management of this fund. The Committee completed their work in January 2008 and recommended that the club continue to

support children through the building of playgrounds. The best use of the club's Benevolence Fund would be to establish an endowment fund managed by the **Edmonton Community Foundation**. The existing Lee Community Playspace Fund would be used as our field of interest and a new **Gyro Club of Edmonton Fund** would be set up. The annual interest generated by this fund would be used to provide playground equipment to those Edmonton community play spaces that are fully open to the public.

A formal fund agreement was signed with the Edmonton Community Foundation on April 15th, 2008, with a contribution of \$16,500. The fund has continued to grow with tribute donations and an additional contribution by the Club of \$4000 in April 2013. At the end of 2020, the fund held \$44,334 and in 2021, \$3710 will be available to grant.

Conventions

The Edmonton Club hosted their first District Convention in 1924 and then followed with ten more in 1929, 1936, 1939, 1949, 1956, 1963, 1981, 1996, 2007 and 2019. In the early years, the Gyro's and Gyrettes travelled by train and the conventions were reported widely in the local newspapers because of the excitement and economic boost that was generated. Three International Conventions were hosted in 1939, 1963 and 1996.

The 1996 Gyro International and District VIII Convention entitled **GOLD RUSH OF '96** and held in Edmonton July 11-14, 1996, was attended by some 565 Gyros and Gyrettes and was one of the most successful conventions ever held. The **Convention Co-Chairs, David** and **Marlene Burnett** and **Marty** and **Shirley Larson** along with **Registration Chairs, Barry** and **Valerie Walker** spent a year and a half planning and organizing this first-class event with the help of dozens of club members,

The Gyro Club of Edmonton was blessed with a multitude of energetic and outstanding Gyro members over the last 100 years.

The Honor Key Award (Gyro's Highest Recognition) was given to Alex Mitchell (1939), Roy Miller (1950), Russ Carter (1953), Gord Rennie (1985) and Marty Larson in 1994.

The **Award of Merit** (For Outstanding Service to Gyro) was given to Ken Robertson (1963), Gord Rennie (1969), Lorne Graban (1970), Russ Carter (1979), Jack Jones (1981), Harry Mills (1982), Marty Larson (1989), Wes Van Dusen (1993), David J. Burnett (2001), Barry J. Walker (2001), John Ross (2003), Roger Russell (2009), Walter Yakimets (2011) and Fred Schulte (2016), Mike Matei (2017), Dick Nichols (2020), Peter Carter (2021).



April 2010, Gord's 98th Birthday

PIP Marty Larson

PDG Gord Rennie

PDG Gerry Glassford

The **Jimmie Hubbell Award** (External Expansion) was given to Howard Wilson in 1975 for his role in the formation of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club and Marty Larson was honoured for his role in the founding of the St. Albert Gyro Club in 1992.

The **Bud Mitchell Award** (International Gyro of the Year) was awarded to Gord Rennie in 1991 and Barry J. Walker in 2006.

Marty Larson was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2005. Our two **Past International Presidents** were Russ Carter (1952) and Marty Larson (1993).

Our **Past District Governors** were Nelles Buchanan (1925), Robert Muir (1928), Charlie MacDonald (1931), Alex Mitchell (1936), Russ Carter (1943), James Jefferson (1950), Douglas Cobbledick (1957), Gord Rennie (1965), Lorne Graban (1969), Howard Wilson (1975), Marty Larson (1986), Gerry Glassford (2002) and Peter Carter (2017).

The **GYROLOG** is also approaching a significant milestone in September 2021 when it will celebrate its **98th year of publication**. The editors have changed, from Jack Oliver our founder, to many others including Gord Rennie, Allan Douglas, Peter Fairbridge and your present Editor, Fred Schulte, but its purpose has not. The Club bulletin continues to keep its members informed on upcoming important special events, meetings, summary information on guest speakers, posting of new member applicants, notice of birthdays and anniversaries and a bit of humour from time to time.

This 100th Anniversary Celebration Document would not have been possible without the support and assistance from **Marty** and **Shirley Larson, Allan and Jean Warrack, John Ross, Chuck Gerhart, Peter Carter**, and my granddaughter **Sophie McKinnon**.

Cheerio! FRED SCHULTE July 2021

Gyro International



Presents to the
Gyro Club of Edmonton
This
Testimonial of Friendship
In recognition of your
One Hundredth Anniversary
July 29, 1921 – July 29 2021

W. Michael McTally

International Secretary/Treasurer