



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

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JULY 2010

Those celebrating their birthdays in July are **John Mann** on the 2nd and **Leon Lubin** on the 18th.

The July wedding anniversaries are **Jack and Myrna Slobodan**, 45 years on the 3rd; **Barry and Valerie Walker**, 40 years on the 11th and **Bryce and Florrie Van Dusen**, 70 years on the 13th.

President Bill Taylor welcomed 29 Gyro's and one guest to the July 6th luncheon meeting held at Gini's Restaurant at 10706-142 Street. Lunch included a choice of mushroom soup or Caesar salad; beef, chicken or salmon and strawberries or cheesecake. **Dick Nichols** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Warren Garbutt** presented the Grace.

Allan Warrack introduced our guest speaker, **Tony Kernahan** who is a physics professor at the University of Alberta, was born in Ireland and emigrated to Edmonton in 1968.

Tony grew up in Northern Ireland and rode the Giant's Causeway Tram near Dunluce Castle when he was four years old. In 1962, he rode the last streetcar in Glasgow, Scotland. This early love and fascination of streetcars led Tony to join the Edmonton Radial Railway Society. In 1832, John Stephenson started up the first tram or street car system in North America, the New York-Harlem Fourth Avenue Line using a horse-drawn tram on rails. This was followed by steam trams and the first cable cars in San Francisco in 1873. The invention of electric motors opened up the street car business in a big way. The first electric streetcar line was operated in Richmond, Virginia in 1888. Edmonton's street car system began in 1908 and ran separately from the Town of Strathcona's network which ran east-west to Bonnydoon. In 1912, with the completion of the High Level Bridge, the two systems were amalgamated.

Edmonton's street car system consisted of 12 miles of track in 1908, 54 miles in 1915 and 56 miles in 1920. The initial street car designs were functional but not comfortable and by the 1930's the President's Conference Car (PCC) was introduced which incorporated rubber-backed wheels and was quiet and efficient. The first trolley buses were introduced in 1939. The street car system carried record numbers of passengers during the Second World War. The system began to wear out and no new investment was made after the war and street cars were abandoned in 1951.

When the system was abandoned, only street car #1 was kept and restored. In 1997 street car service was restored to the High Level Bridge using a working Japanese car built with U.S. parts. (Osaka car #247) Over the years the Edmonton Radial Railway Society has found about 20 old abandoned street car bodies in Northern Alberta. Eight of these cars have been acquired and four restored. Three other cars are presently in service on the High Level Bridge; Osaka #247, Australian #930 and the Hannover, Germany Siemens-Duwag LRT proto-type #601. These cars operate 11:00 am to 4:30 pm weekdays and 9:00 am-4:30 on the weekends during the summer months.

For more information check the Edmonton Radial Railway Society website:

www.edmonton-radial-railway.ab.ca

Sam Gruden thanked our speaker for a colourful and entertaining presentation.

SECOND POSTING

Cliff French has applied for membership in our club. **Cliff** and his wife **Sharon** reside at **#20, 50 Oakridge Dr. S** in St. Albert and their postal code is **T8N 7A1**. Their telephone number is **780-459-3922** and their email address is cliff.french@shaw.ca **Cliff** is a retired pharmacist and is proposed by **Chuck Gerhart** and **Jack Slobodan**.



Car Number 42 built by St. Louis Car Co. 1912, in service until 1951, recovered in 1981 and restored to service at Fort Edmonton in 1984.

It is with sadness and fond memories that we acknowledge the passing of **Dave Duchak** on July 11th at the age of 96. Dave was a **member of the Gyro fraternity for 67 years**, having joined the Calgary Gyro Club in 1943 and then joining the Edmonton Club in 1962. David was one of eight children in the Duchak family and was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan on August 18th, 1913. He and his wife Lauraine were married for almost 73 years and raised two children, Gary of Okotoks and Donna of Edmonton.

Growing up in a large family, Dave developed a strong sense of responsibility and subsequently honed his in the world of sport. Blessed with wonderful hand-eye coordination, he starred on several Moose Jaw football, hockey and baseball teams. His athleticism and leadership shone brightest in ice hockey. During the Depression years, gainful employment was scarce but skilled hockey players were assisted with employment and Dave worked and played hockey in Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Trail and Calgary. Dave captained every team on which he played and often added to this important role as coach and manager.

The Stanley Cup is well known as the symbol of ice hockey supremacy in North America, but we may not know that the Allan Cup was the pinnacle of amateur ice

hockey in Canada for almost a century. Winning the Allan Cup was Dave's dream and he achieved it in 1937-38 when he led the Trail Smokeaters to the cup; he did again as the manager of the Calgary Stampeders in 1945-47. Dave had started his career in Calgary in 1938 with Calgary Brewing and Malting; working in the soft drink division as well as being the captain of the newly named hockey team, the "Stampeders." In the late 1940's, Dave was asked to co-manage The Calgary Brewing Company's 55 hotel network in Alberta. The Brewery was ultimately required to divest their interest in hotels by the Manning government and in 1962 Dave and Lauraine moved to Edmonton as manager of the Brewery's soft drink plant.

Throughout these formative years in Calgary and then Edmonton, David and Lauraine enjoyed the friendship of Gyro. In 1943, Watson Hook of the Calgary Gyro Club invited his friend, Dave Duchak to join their club. David was interested in Gyro because of the friendships he had previously established in the Calgary Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Gyro's seemed "just right" and the burdens of expectations were not too heavy. He stayed with Gyro for 67 years because of the wonderful friendships he has shared, because of the social life that allowed he and Lauraine to share the pleasure of Gyro/Gyrette square dancing, pre-game and post-game football barbeques and golf foursomes. Dave's greatest satisfaction from being a Gyro for 67 years was the "many deep, long-lasting great friendships that I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy."

Dave was a true gentlemen and he will be missed!



President Bill Taylor welcomed 28 Gyro's and our guest speaker to the July 20th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **Ari "Dutch" Hoeksema** presented the Grace.

President Bill also provided a brief summary of his attendance at the **International & District VII Convention** held in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 11-18th. There were 100 registered Gyro's/Gyrettes and 160 attended the Saturday night banquet and dance. There were representatives of clubs from all across North America including Naples, Florida; Fresno, California; Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and Edmonton, Alberta.

Gerry Glassford introduced our guest speaker, **Dr. Robert Steadward, O.C., A.O.E., LLD.** Dr. Steadward received his BPE (Distinction) and MSc. from the University of Alberta and a PhD from the University of Oregon. He is currently Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, Founder and Honourary President of the Steadward Centre for Personal and Physical Achievement (formerly the Rick Hanson Centre), Edmonton. His previous academic positions at the U. of A. include, Chairman, Department of Athletics, 1985-1989; Associate Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, 1983-85 and Professor, 1970-2001.

Bob was the founder and President of the Alberta Wheelchair Sports Association, 1971-1975; Founder, President and Chairman, Canadian Sports Fund for the Physically Disabled, 1979-89 and Chairman of Accreditation, 1978 Commonwealth Games, Edmonton.

Dr. Steadward spoke of the tremendous interest shown by Canadians in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Vancouver, B.C. We witnessed sacrifice and accomplishments that were unparalleled. We should never, never underestimate the power of the human spirit. There were 25,000 dedicated, courteous volunteers that worked tirelessly for 16 days at the Olympics and 10 days at the Paralympics. It all started with the Torch Run where 12,000 people ran in 1000 communities across Canada.

In the period, 1960-89, sports disability was under the radar and unappreciated. Disabled athletes were considered to be "invalids" or "patients"; their venues were hospitals and their coaches were doctors. Sports were considered to be "recreational". Bob Steadward worked tirelessly to convince the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that disabled athletes needed to be included; however the IOC was a very tough political group to convince. Dr. Steadward developed a good working relationship with Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC

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(1980-2001). In 1987, Samaranch agreed in principle to the future involvement of disabled athletes but it had to be based on a "sport" model and athletes had to be organized by country. In 1988, representatives from 40 countries met in Arnhem, Germany to discuss and organize the beginning of the Paralympic games. In 1989, 41 nations met in Seoul, South Korea and founded the International Paralympic Committee. Twelve years later, the committee had grown to represent 175 countries. Steadward joined the IOC to help develop the right sports formula which was based on tolerance and understanding.

In 2000 at the Sydney Games, Juan Antonio Samaranch and Bob Steadward signed a formal agreement to complete the integration of the Olympic and Paralympic organizations. Even with 22 years of experience with the Paralympic movement there are still many of the 126 life-time members of the IOC who do not consider these individuals to be athletes. There will need to be ongoing technical and television support for the Paralympic athletes to be treated the same as their Olympic counterparts.

On the other hand it has taken 104 years since the modern Olympics were launched in 1896 to attain the professional and organizational status that they now enjoy. In just 22 years, significant progress has been achieved on the Paralympic side. Host countries must now accept both groups and there is even talk of integration of summer and winter events.

People with physical disabilities have tended to use a lot of medication, however the involvement of organized sport has changed the need for medication and very few prescription drugs are used by Paralympic athletes. To compete as a Paralympian, the individual must have a significant disability or impairment.

Dick Nichols thanked Bob Steadward for a remarkable presentation.

The winner of the free lunch draw was **Len Stevens**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Gyro/Gyrette Golf Tournament, Legends Golf Course, August 3rd.

Cost: \$55 for nine holes and steak BBQ, \$30 for BBQ dinner only.

Contacts: Barry Walker and Roger Russell

Regular Noon Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, August 17th.

Speaker: Waqar Syed, Senior Engineer, City of Edmonton Transportation Planning Branch.

Topic: Future Plans and Challenges for the Edmonton LRT system

District VIII Convention 2010, "Come Play in the Park", Sherwood Park, AB, August 19-22, 2010

Gyro/Gyrette Corn Roast, Malmo Community League Hall, Tuesday Evening September 7th.

Cost: \$15 per person

Contact: Roger Russell

2010 Gyro Day at the Races, Northlands Spectrum, 4th Floor Chairman's Suite, Sunday, September 26th.

Time: 12:00 Noon- Doors Open, 12:00 Lunch Buffet, 1:00 pm Post Time

Cost: \$35 per person, Gyro's/Gyrettes or guests

Buffet Menu: Roast Striploin, Balsamic Chicken, vegetable medley, salads, desserts, coffee and tea. A cash bar will be available.

Payment by cash or cheque payable to the Gyro Club of Edmonton.

Contacts: Val Pohl and John Boyd.