



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-Jack Bowen, Past President-Ron Trant**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.edmontongyroclub.com)**

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## ***MARCH 2024***

***BIRTHDAYS:*** Sheldon Weatherby, 75 years on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Barry Walker on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

***WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:*** Mike and Sharon Matei celebrated 35 years on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Life is either a daring adventure or nothing,*

*Security does not exist in nature,*

*Nor do the children of men*

*as a whole experience it.*

*Avoiding danger is no safer*

*In the long run than exposure. —HELEN KELLER*

**Governor Dunc Mills** played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **President Jack Bowen** welcomed 23 Gyros and six guests to the **March 5<sup>th</sup>** luncheon meeting held at the Mill Woods Golf Course Woodvale Clubhouse.

**President Jack** presented the Grace.

**Walter Yakimets** welcomed our guest speaker, **Laurie Hawn**, and his grandson **Jamie Yakimets**. **Gary Campbell** introduced his guest, **Ron Jewett**. **Doug Armstrong** introduced **Jeff Wurzur**, and **Ray Dallaire** welcomed **Glen** and **Cam Lowe**.

Results of the member survey on luncheon meeting locations indicated that **17 members were in favour of Mill Woods** and **15 favoured the Derrick Golf and Winter Club**. As a result, negotiations will begin with both clubs to determine the feasibility of holding luncheon meetings at Mill Woods and mixed events such as Christmas, Valentines, Executive Installation, Corn Roast /Bocce, and Founders Night at the Derrick.

**President Jack** gave a quote from **Winston Churchill**:

*"Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions."*

**Governor Dunc** reported on his recent trip to **Wallace, Idaho** with **Lt. Governor Ted Ewanchuk** to undertake the installation of their Executive. The Wallace Gyro Club is doing very well with 38 members and newly installed **President Hunter Gust is only 23 years old**. They also have an interesting approach to recruitment; they have capped their membership which sends out the message that being a Gyro is a privilege! Wallace is a very close-knit community with a population of only 791.

Walter Yakimets introduced **The Honourable Laurie Hawn, retired Lt. Col-RCAF, and retired MP.**

Laurie was born and raised in Winnipeg. **He joined the Canadian Air Force as a pilot in 1964, retiring 30 years later.** During his air force career, he flew over 7000 jet hours in a variety of aircraft including the Starfighter (CF 104) and CF -18 and served in a variety of senior staff positions including Commander of CF 18 Tactical Flight Squadron and Wing Operations officer at # 4 wing Cold Lake. He also served as an Honorary Colonel of 417 Combat Support Squadron and 401 Tactical Fighter Squadron.

After retiring from the RCAF he worked for 11 years in the financial services industry and was a founding member of the Investment Advisory Association of Canada.

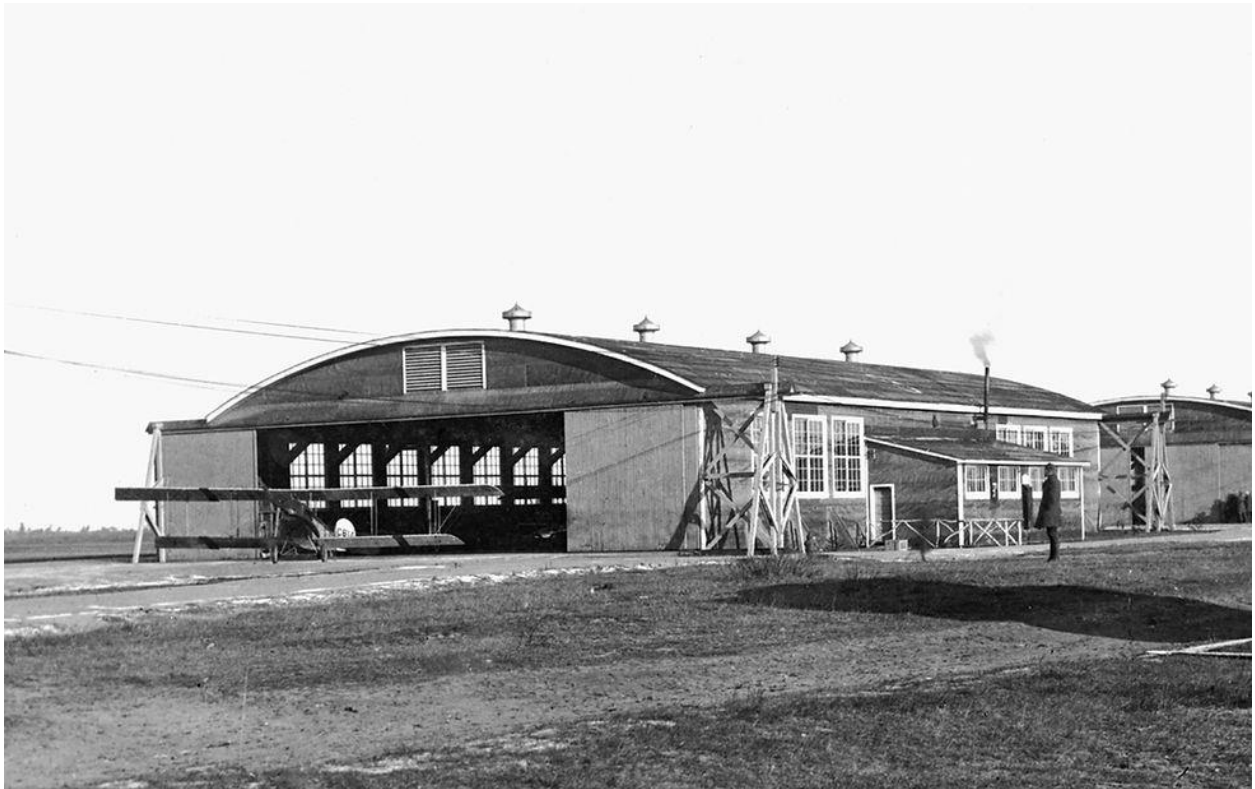
Laurie then decided to go into politics and became **Conservative MP for Edmonton Centre in 2006-2015.** This was a seat that was held by popular Liberal MP Anne McClellan. He served in a variety of Standing Committees in the House of Commons and was especially involved in the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan. In 2007 he became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence. In 2010 Laurie was appointed to Queen's Privy Council and later to the Treasury Board. These were unique appointments in that, previously, these positions were held by Cabinet Ministers. He, also, served for four years as Co-Chair of the Canadian - USA Permanent Joint Board of Defence.

Laurie Hawn did not seek re-election in 2015 but he continued in public service by becoming a member of the Edmonton Police Commission, a Trustee of the Glenrose Hospital Foundation, and a board member of No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation.

On a personal note, Laurie is married to Judy, they have two children and two grandchildren.

Laurie provided some **history on the RCAF:**

In **1924, King George V** granted royal sanction to form the **Royal Canadian Air Force at Camp Borden, Ontario.** During the period of 1932-1938, 10 Auxiliary Squadrons operated there. From December 1939 to March 1945, The RCAF led the **British Commonwealth Air Training Program** across Canada which trained 131,000 aircrew including 50,000 pilots.



**Camp Borden-Early Days**

*source: coldwaterlegion.com.*

The RCAF played a vital role in the Second World War with significant contributions in the battle of the Atlantic, Europe and the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific. The RCAF had the fourth largest Airforce with 48 squadrons.

The **Hawker Hurricane** was first flown in 1935. The Hurricane served throughout World War II in virtually every theatre of operations. The RCAF received its first Hurricanes in February 1939. The first RCAF squadron to fire its guns in anger, No. 1 Squadron (which later became 401 Squadron), flew Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain. Two other RCAF squadrons, No. 402 and 417 Squadrons, flew the type in overseas operations, while a further ten squadrons operated the aircraft here in Canada. The Canadian Car and Foundry Company began Canadian production in January 1940 at Fort William (now part of Thunder Bay, Ontario). A total of 1,451 Hurricanes were built in this country. While not so graceful or well known as its fighting mate, the Spitfire, the Hurricane proved to be rugged in service and highly adaptable being used in a wide variety of roles and carrying diverse types of weapons and armament.

*Source: Canadian Combat and Support Aircraft: A Military Compendium by T.F.J. Leversedge © 2007*



Hawker Hurricane

The RCAF acquired their **first helicopter**, a Sikorsky H-5 on April 5, 1947.

The first scheduled flight of an RCAF Canadian-built transport aircraft occurred on April 15, 1947. The **TCA Canadair-built Douglas Dc-4M-1 North Star** flew from Goose Bay, Labrador, to Prestwick, Scotland in just 8 hours and 39 minutes.



Canadair North Star

**Peacetime Activities.** By the end of 1947, the RCAF had five squadrons and close to 12,000 personnel (all ranks) Aerial photography, mapping and surveying were undertaken, along with transportation missions, search and rescue and mercy flights.

The main thrust of RCAF activities in the period of the **Korean War, 1950-53** was to build up its own forces and deploy them to Europe, providing support to NATO at a time when a large portion of USAF resources were engulfed in Korea and when the Soviet Union could have taken advantage of perceived NATO weaknesses.

About 800 RCAF personnel were from **426 (Transport) Squadron**, at RCAF Station Lachine, Québec; the remainder were fighter pilots; flight nurses; supply, technical, and photo intelligence personnel; and a judge advocate general. Airmen from the RCN and the Canadian Army also participated, as did civilian flight crews from Canadian Pacific Airlines (CPA). Some Canadians joined the US Army or the US Air Force (USAF) directly.

**RCAF 426 Squadron** made 599 round-trip flights between McChord Air Force Base (AFB) near Tacoma, Washington, and Haneda airfield in Tokyo while collaborating with the USAF's Material Air Transport Service.

Canada's ongoing commitments to the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) included 16 day-fighter squadrons in Europe, flying the Canadian-built version of the **F-86E Sabre jet**. Other wings were established and equipped in Germany and France in the early 1950s. In addition, nine squadrons were re-equipped with the Canadian-designed and -built **CF-100 Canuck** all-weather fighter interceptor.

April 1953 saw the **C-119 Flying Boxcar** added to the RCAF transport fleet. In May, the de Havilland **Comet jet airliner** and the Canadian version of the **T-33 Silver Star trainer**, which first flew in late 1952, were added to the RCAF inventory.

The **McDonnell CF-101 Voodoo** was an all-weather [interceptor aircraft](#) operated by the [Royal Canadian Air Force](#) and the [Canadian Forces](#) between **1961 and 1984**. They were manufactured by the [McDonnell Aircraft Corporation](#) of [St. Louis, Missouri](#) for the [United States Air Force](#) (as [F-101s](#)), and later sold to [Canada](#). **CF-101's** replaced the obsolete [Avro CF-100 Canuck](#) in the RCAF's all-weather fighter squadrons. The Voodoo's primary armament was [nuclear AIR-2A Genie](#) unguided air-to-air rockets, and there was significant political controversy in Canada about their adoption. Although they never fired a weapon in wartime, the CF-101 served as Canada's primary means of air defence from Quick Reaction Alert facilities

at [Canadian airbases](#). The CF-101s were retired in the 1980s and replaced with [McDonnell Douglas CF-18 Hornet fighters](#).



CF 101 Voodoo

*br. pinterest photo*

### **Royal Canadian Air Force—CF-104 Starfighter: 1961-1986**

In 1961, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) air division replaced its aging Canadair CL-13 Sabres with **Lockheed CF-104 Starfighters**. In May 1958, the Starfighter had set a speed record of 1,404 miles per hour (2,250 kilometres per hour) and an altitude record of 91,243 feet (27,830 metres). The fastest aircraft to serve in the RCAF, the Starfighter approached its targets using a treetop-level flight path from takeoff to the target area. Moreover, because the aircraft had a relatively small wing surface, it could not glide very well; in the event of mechanical failure, the pilot had a split second to decide to eject or take other action. Indeed, the Starfighter was known as "a missile with a man in it." Although the CF-104 could fulfill the role of tactical ground support, it was primarily designated as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nuclear deterrence force. Indeed, the aircraft reflected the changing role of the RCAF in NATO's European force. United States Air Force command in NATO viewed the RCAF's 1 Canadian Air Division as one of NATO's very best formations and had asked the Canadian government to equip it with the Starfighter. NATO proposed a high priority mission for the air division: nuclear interdiction on strategic targets in the heartland of the Soviet Union. In short, the CF-104 would carry nuclear weapons intended to deliver strikes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The government approved the mission, and a

contract was let to Canadair for the production of some 200 aircraft. These RCAF Starfighters, a modified version of the F-104G model, were optimized for the nuclear strike role.

After having freely accepted this critical strategic bombing mission for NATO, the government of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker refused to accept the nuclear munitions required to carry out the task. This situation created a very messy public brawl not only within Canada but also between Canada and its NATO partners. Ultimately, this controversy contributed to the defeat of the Diefenbaker government in 1963.

The eight Sabre squadrons of 1 Canadian Air Division were re-equipped with CF-104 Starfighters in 1962, and the four CF-100 squadrons disbanded. In 1968, two of these Starfighter squadrons disbanded. In 1970, Canada's NATO contingent was further reduced to three squadrons, and 1 Canadian Air Group replaced 1 Canadian Air Division. No. 417 Squadron, Cold Lake, Alberta, was the CF-104 operational training squadron. The Canadian Armed Forces began to replace the CF-104 with CF-18 Hornets in 1982.

*Source: The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum*





The **CF-18 Hornet** replaced the CF-104 Starfighters and the CF-101 Voodoos starting in 1982. Equipping five squadrons in Canada and three in West Germany at CFB Baden-Soellingen, the CF-18 was better suited to the modern battlefield with its superior maneuverability, good self-protection equipment, modern communications, and excellent radar.

**In Europe**, the CF-18s were optimized for air defence missions and stood ready to counter the substantial Warsaw Pact air forces that had been expanded and upgraded in the 1970s with new MiG and Sukhoi fighter aircraft.

Canada's CF-18s stood ready to blunt the first waves of Soviet strike aircraft aimed at NATO's airfields, missile sites, and nuclear weapons facilities. CF-18 pilots also trained for ground strikes in this period, using the unguided rockets and bombs available at that time.

During the 1980's, the RCAF assigned Fighter Squadrons stationed at **CFB Cold Lake** and **CFB Bagotville** to NORAD for air defense and sovereignty missions across Canada to the North Pole. **CFB Bagotville's 425 Squadron** was responsible for air defence from Winnipeg to the East Coast and to the North Pole with forward operating locations (FOLs) in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

**CFB Cold Lake based 441 Squadron** held alert status in Comox on Vancouver Island with FOLs at Yellowknife and Inuvik and were responsible for air defence from Winnipeg to the West Coast to the North Pole.

*Source: Airforce Museum of Alberta*

In 1991, the Canadian Forces deployed 24 CF-18s to aid the U.S. in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield during the first Gulf War. These aircraft were based out of Qatar and flew over 5,700 hours, participating in 56 bombing missions. This deployment represented **Canada's first engagement in combat since the Korean War**.

CF-18s were also deployed to Italy to aid in operations in the former Yugoslavia. The aircraft first helped with air patrols in 1997, supporting NATO peacekeepers in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In June 1999, 18 CF-18s began participating in NATO air strikes against Serbian forces, conducting 10 per cent of all strikes, including 558 bombing missions.

Since then, CF-18s have played a major part in **Operation Noble Eagle**, the NORAD mission to protect the skies over the U.S. and Canada. The Canadian Forces CF-18 aircraft were also used during a **2011 UN-approved NATO mission in Libya**. The aircraft were used to conduct a total of 946 sorties during the uprising against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The fighter jets were also used in the U.S.-led mission against ISIS in **Iraq and Syria** from October 2014 to February 2016. The CF-18s conducted 1378 sorties, resulting in 251 airstrikes.

*Source: CBC News March 21, 2011*



CF-18 Hornet

*Source: Canada.ca RCAF Aircraft*

### **RCAF Air Display Teams**

The **Golden Hawks** were formed on March 1, 1959, to celebrate 50 years of powered flight in Canada. The team consisted of seven CL-13 Sabre Mk 5 aircraft which flew in 317 air shows in Canada and the USA from 1959 to 1964.



Source: AIRPIGZ

In 1971, the *Snowbirds* were officially created as the **431 Air Demonstration Squadron**.

The Snowbirds fly the Canadair CT-114 Tutor, a Canadian-built jet that was used by the Canadian Forces as a basic pilot-training aircraft form 1963 until 2000.



Source: Government of Canada

The future of the Snowbirds is unknown because we have a much smaller pool of pilots and support staff.

The next generation fighter is **the F-35** which is the right call for Canada.

Canada finalized a deal on January 9, 2023, to buy 88 F-35 fighter jets by 2032.

The **Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II** is an American family of single-seat, single-engine, all-weather **stealth multirole combat aircraft** that is intended to perform both **air superiority** and **strike** missions. It is also able to provide **electronic warfare** and **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance** capabilities. **Lockheed Martin** is the prime F-35 contractor, with principal partners **Northrop Grumman** and **BAE Systems**. The aircraft has three main variants: the **conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A**, the **short take-off and vertical-landing (STOVL) F-35B**, and the **carrier-based (CV/CATOBAR) F-35C**. Source: Wikipedia



The bad news is that we have a severe shortage of personnel, 16,000 short and two thirds short of pilots. There are 18 planes in a squadron with 25 pilots Presently we have only 50 fighter pilots. **Leadership is required!**

One of the solutions could be an **All-Party Procurement model** that is used in Australia.

**We are no longer part of the club, NATO- wise!**

***Editor's note:** The March 14<sup>th</sup> Edmonton Journal reported that the RCAF will retire its fleet of pilot training jets (ST-155 Hawks) of the 419 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron in Cold Lake. Canada's aspiring pilots will now travel to Texas, Finland, and Italy to earn their wings.*

**April 1, 2024, is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Service for the RCAF as an independent military element.**

**President Jack Bowen** thanked Laurie for his comprehensive presentation. He was gifted with a book authored by our Doug Armstrong entitled *Giants of the Pacific Northwest The Hunt Family Totem Poles*.



**Laurie Hawn**

**Roger Russell** was the Free Lunch winner and **Dick Nichols** was the second Free Lunch winner.

**Governor Dunc Mills** played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **Vice-President Georg Schuller** welcomed 21 Gyros to the luncheon and **Annual General Meeting** held at the Mill Woods Golf Course Woodvale Clubhouse on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Bruce Foy** led the group in the singing of Cheerio. **Warren Garbutt** advised that he will be the **Health of the Club contact**.

**Vice-President Georg** presented the Grace.

In accordance with Article VI of the Constitution and By-Laws as amended November 1, 2022, **Vice-President Georg Schuller** opened the Annual General Meeting at 12:46 pm. A quorum was confirmed with one-third of active members in attendance at 21.

Minutes of the first AGM held on March 21, 2023 were circulated to Members previously last year. The minutes were accepted. There was no report of the Board, reports of Standing and Special Committees nor Report of Officers.

**Treasurer Larry Dobson** presented the proposed **Budget-General Fund May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025**.

The Membership dues are to be reduced by \$10 to \$250. We are projecting a loss of members of up to five and an increase of two new members.

A motion by Treasurer **Larry Dobson** to approve the Budget-General Fund 2024-25 was made and seconded **by Val Pohl**. Further discussion ensued and a vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Members.

**Immediate Past President, Ron Trant presented the the Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors.**

Past President	<b>Jack Bowen</b>
President	<b>Georg Schuller</b>
Vice-President	<b>Ray Dallaire</b>
Secretary	<b>Barry Walker</b>
Treasurer	<b>Larry Dobson</b>
Directors	<b>Jim Lepp</b> -third one-year term <b>Sheldon Weatherby</b> – third one-year term <b>Martin Marshall</b> – third one-year term <b>Leon Lubin</b> - first one-year term

A motion by **Ron Trant** to approve the proposed Slate of Officers and Directors was seconded by **Georg Schuller**. The members unanimously approved the motion. The Annual General Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

**Gary Campbell** was the Free Lunch winner.



## **Jack Little - “When you give, you get back more than you give”**

After a courageous battle with Cancer, with friends and family by his side, Jack Little passed away peacefully at home on **February 27, 2024 at the age of 83.**

Left to miss his bright smile, unconditional support and love are his wife of 54 years Sylvia, and daughter Kara Little. Jack is known for his contributions to the community, making people feel welcome immediately - often by a big smile, and if you're lucky a playful tease. Not only did he participate in dozens of volunteer organizations, but also rallied support to raise money and assistance for people in his orbit in times of need.

Jack was born April 1, 1940 on the kitchen table in the house on Prospect Street in Newmarket, Ontario to parents Leonard and Nellie and a newly no-longer only child, 9 year old sister Mary-Lou.

In 1958, Jack joined the Air Force, where he learned about girls and beer. He completed his service in Edmonton after 5 years. Jack graduated from NAIT in the Centennial Year 1967, where he immediately was employed by Sunwapta Broadcasting (CFRN TV). He spent 28 years there, and eventually became the Station Manager. Jack then moved to the Edmonton Heritage Festival as its Executive Director, and finally retired at age 75.

Jack is a firm believer in giving back to his community. His long association with Edmonton's Food Bank is well known. It was his fondest not for profit and served 23 years on the board with 6 as chair. Jack has also served on the board of the Greater Edmonton Foundation (8 years), he has been a member of the board of the Better Business Bureau and eventually became its president. He also spent volunteer time on the Edmonton Community Loan Fund, NAIT advisory committee, was the President of the Western Association of Broadcasters and past president of the Gyro Club of Edmonton. His philosophy is when you give, you get back more than you give.

Jack and Sylvia enjoyed travel, and particularly enjoyed Maui, many summers they visited the Okanagan, and explored several different countries after being exposed to many cultures during Jack's work with the Heritage Festival. Jack loved horse racing, but eventually it bit him in the butt, although he did own many race horses over the years. He coached Kara's soccer team for a few years, taught her how to ride a bike and how to spit in the creek to attract fish. Kara may have been his only child, but Jack was a mentor figure for many friends' children, nieces, nephews, and new Canadians.

Jack wishes for those who would like to make a memorial tribute do so to Edmonton's Food Bank (<https://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com/donate-now/>) , or Dayspring Presbyterian Church (<https://dayspringchurch.ca/giving/donate/>).

**A celebration of life was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Dayspring Church.**



**Jack** was introduced to Gyro by **John Plunkett**. **Marty Larson** inducted Jack into the Gyro Club of Edmonton with his sponsor **David Burnett** on June 8, 2010. He served as President in 2015-16.



**Gary Campbell**

**Michael Mant**

**Jack Little**



**Gyro friends,  
Maui, 2017**

**Chuck Gerhart and Dunc Mills report on the Hockey Pool Winners.**

**Game 13 February 28**   **Winners**   **First Period**   **Second**   **Final**  
**Oilers vs Blues**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>1 2</b>	Kherington Baird	Norene Erickson	Spencer Scornaienchi
<b>Second</b>	<b>2 2</b>	<b>Gary Campbell</b>	Georgia Mckinnon	Nestor Slipchuk
<b>Final</b>	<b>3 2</b>	<b>Walter Yakimets</b>	Janice Nichols Molofy	<b>Walter Yakimets</b>

**Game 14 March 3**   **Winners**   **First Period**   **Second**   **Final**  
**Oilers vs Penguins**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>1 0</b>	<b>Elaine Douglas</b>	<b>Jack Brown</b>	<b>Marty Larson</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>5 0</b>	Paul Stout	Jill Hastings	Dale Green
<b>Final</b>	<b>6 1</b>	<b>Sheldon Weatherby</b>	<b>Jim Lepp</b>	<b>Jim Lepp</b>

**Game 15 March 13**   **Winners**   **First Period**   **Second**   **Final**  
**Oilers vs Capitals**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>3 2</b>	<b>Georg Schuller</b>	<b>Elaine Douglas</b>	<b>Jack Brown</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>5 2</b>	Darrell McManus	Paul Stout	John Rayson
<b>Final</b>	<b>7 2</b>	Unsold	<b>Sheldon Weatherby</b>	Unsold

**Game 16 March 19**   **Winners**   **First Period**   **Second**   **Final**  
**Oilers vs Canadiens**

<b>First Period</b>	<b>1 0</b>	Everett Douglas	<b>Jack Brown</b>	Ajay Bhardwaj
<b>Second</b>	<b>2 0</b>	<b>Marg Foy</b>	Janice Nichols Molofy	Margo Long
<b>Final</b>	<b>3 2</b>	<b>Walter Yakimets</b>	<b>Jack Brown</b>	<b>Martin Marshall</b>

**Michael Mant** has resigned, we wish him well in his future endeavours.

**“Fast Fred”**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Rig Hand Distillery Tour and Lunch, Leduc County, 11:00 am, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**  
Team leader: **Martin Marshall**

**Installation of Officers and Directors, Thursday evening, April 25<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Derrick Golf and Winter Club**  
Speaker: **Bob Ascah**  
Topic: **Proposed Alberta Pension Plan**  
Team Leaders: **Jack Bowen and Dunc Mills**

**Luncheon Meeting, Mixed Event, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Mill Woods Golf Course Woodvale Clubhouse.**  
Speaker/Singer: **Cassie Garbutt**  
Topic: **Great Songs of the 1940's and 1950's.**  
Team Leader: **Warren Garbutt**

**District VIII Convention, Lacombe, Alberta, June 19-20, 2024**