



THE GYROLOG THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

President

Leon Lubin
780 454-9712

JUNE 2009

1stVice-President

Bill Taylor
780 430-0330

Those celebrating their birthdays in June are **Warren Garbutt** on June 9th.

2ndVice-President

Ari Hoeksema
780 421-7776

The June wedding anniversaries are **Ken and Barbara Willan**, 43 years on the 4th; **Walter and Kay Yakimets** 50 years on the 6th; **Roger and Janet Russell**, 49 years on the 11th; **Larry and Carol Dobson**, 42 years on the 17th; **Cliff and Kathryn Revell**, 39 years on the 18th; **Ron and Marlene Ramsey**, 49 years on the 24th.

Past President

John Plunkett
780 435-7011

Secretary

Barry Walker
780 475-0983

It is with regret that we acknowledge the sudden death of former Gyro, **Victor Jagoldas** on May 31st, 2009. Victor is survived by his wife Valerie of 50 years and his younger brother Alexander. Victor was President of the Gyro Club of Edmonton in 2002-2003. Victor and Valerie were consummate ballroom dancers and will always be remembered for their diligent efforts to pass on their skills to many of our club members.

Treasurer

Mike Matei
780 930-1780

Directors

Peter Carter
780 488-2403
Sam Gruden
780 488-5520
Chuck Gerhart
780 439-9792
Ken Willan
780 434-1306

Our **President, Leon Lubin** welcomed 29 Gyro's and six guests to our June 2nd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Gerry Glassford** led the group in Cheerio and **Ken Willan** presented the Grace.

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
780 434-0925

Bruce Foy introduced his guest and new member prospect **Len Stevens**. **Gerry Glassford** introduced his guests **Rob Burnett** and **Bob Smyth**. **Walter Yakimets** presented his guests **Jack Slobodan** and **Olin Thurston**, father of our guest speaker **Eric Thurston**.

First Vice-President Bill Taylor reported on some of the items of discussion at the recent **Executive Meeting**. Our membership has seen a drop in attendance over the last 12 months with seven resignations and one death. Four new members have joined in the same period. The Executive recognizes that that it is important to maintain our club membership strength and with this goal in mind, a new member prospect meeting will be held in October 2009.

It has also been identified that **Gyro Park No. 10** at Fort Edmonton is beginning to show its age and that some upgrading is appropriate. Further discussion will be necessary within the Club and with the City of Edmonton to determine whether our input will be physical or financial or a combination of both.

It has also been decided that the **free lunch draw** will be restricted to those members bringing new members to the meeting.

John Ross reported on his recent presentation of Canadian Tire money provided by Gyro members to **Habitat for Humanity**. This money is used by Habitat to purchase tools and supplies for their house build projects. John has received a letter of thanks from Alfred Nikolai, President of Habitat in the Edmonton area.

Gerry Glassford introduced our guest speaker **Eric Thurston**, who was officially named **Head Coach** of the University of Alberta **Golden Bears Hockey Team** April 23rd, 2009. Coach Thurston served as interim coach for four seasons, three of which were while head coach Rob Daum was on a three year leave. In his four seasons behind the Alberta bench, Eric Thurston guided the Bears to two Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships, and four Canada West banners, while compiling an 84-26-2 conference record. In 2008-09 Thurston was chosen as the CIS Coach of the Year as Alberta racked up a 22-4-2 regular season mark and a CIS-best 46 points. A three-time winner of the University Cup as an assistant to Coach Daum, Thurston played one season for the Golden Bears in 1985-86 claiming Canada West rookie-of-the-year honours and capturing the national title under Clare Drake. Golden Bear Hockey dates back to 1909 at the beginning of the University of Alberta when games were played on McKernan Lake.

Coach Thurston indicated that it was an overwhelming task to take over the legacy developed by Clare Drake. Mr. Thurston's approach is to develop trust with players so that they will grow not just in hockey but in their personal lives. He has four children but adds another 26 players to his family. The recruiting protocol is difficult because there must be a passion for hockey; there are Friday and Saturday games, a practice every day which means the players are too busy to hold down jobs. As a result finances are an issue; on the other hand the players get a great education, live in a great city and play with a great team.

There is a troubling trend in Canada where some universities have dropped other sports such as soccer to keep hockey going. The universities need to maintain support for all of the sports programs and not just hockey. Setting goals is an important factor to the integrity of the hockey program. The process is very important and the learning to determine what it takes to be successful. The end goal is just not winning but developing good citizens and giving back to the community.

Gerry Glassford thanked Eric Thurston for sharing his dreams and aspirations. The last regular free lunch draw was won by **Larry Dobson**.

We have received resignations from **Owen Cornish**, **Tom Chambers** and **Luc Lascelle**. Owen joined our club in 1992 and was sponsored by Merrill Morstad. Tom and Luc joined in 2001 and 2007 respectively. It was our pleasure to have these gentlemen in our club and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

President Leon Lubin welcomed 56 Gyro's, Gyrette's and guests to the Tuesday luncheon meeting held at the Royal Glenora Club on June 16th. Val Pohl led the singing of *Cheerio* and Chuck Gerhart presented the *Grace*.

Marty Larson introduced his guest **Jack Slobodan** and **John Boyd** welcomed their friend **Maureen Michie** visiting from Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Our new member applicant **Len Stevens** was also in attendance.

President Leon advised that he and **John Ross** attended the June 4th Annual Meeting of the Edmonton Community Foundation. Our club donated benevolence funds in April 2008 to create **The Gyro Club of Edmonton Fund**. Interest earned from the fund will be used to support and enhance recreational and community building opportunities for children and their families through the development of community playgrounds and play spaces in the greater Edmonton area.

Marty Larson introduced our guest speaker **Dr. William Patton** who graduated from the University of Alberta in 1986 as a Doctor of Medicine. Dr Patton has spent the last nine years in the Canadian Military and retired on June 15th, 2009.

Dr. Patton was the Trauma Team Leader and Commander of the Multinational Hospital located 35 miles southwest of Kandahar in Afghanistan for an eighth month period in 2008. Afghanistan is a failed state with no rule of law, health care system, economy or overall education system. The Afghanistan population is 32 million but it cannot feed itself. Only 43% of men and 12% of women can read. There are 154 deaths per 1000 births and life expectancy is 44 years.

Afghanistan was founded in 330 B.C. by Alexander the Great; in the 13th Century the Mongols invaded and by 1747 the Pashtun tribes were formed. The country has been invaded time after time and after the Russians left, the Taliban from Pakistan moved in. In 2001, the Americans seized Kandahar.

The main crops grown in Afghanistan are marijuana and heroin. There is only one area in the southwest that is irrigated that can grow food crops.

There are 3.2 million people living in the area southwest of Kandahar that can be served by the multinational hospital. The hospital commanded by Dr. Patton was made of wood and surrounded by blast walls to offer some protection from exploding devices. The hospital consisted of a five bed ICU, a two bed OR and could serve 500 inpatients and 6000 outpatients annually. 70-90 percent of the patients served were Afghan military and civilians. A good cadre of doctors and nurses were available and the total staff numbered 150. This Canadian-led hospital included Dutch, Danish and American staff. Lower leg trauma and amputation surgery formed a majority of the injuries received by NATO soldiers who wear body armour to protect their heads and thoracic regions. Afghan soldiers had no armour!

Afghan healthcare is non-existent but there are some well trained doctors but no professionally trained nurses. There is no technology or equipment in the Afghanistan hospitals so that they essentially serve as convalescence centres where families provide all of the care. In contrast, NATO soldiers are patched up in NATO hospitals and sent to Germany for additional surgery and care. Afghan soldiers and civilians have no where to go, have a much higher casualty rate and are fighting for their country.

Dr. Patton finished his talk with a presentation of pictures showing the horrific extent of battlefield injuries and the results of improvised exploding devices.

David Burnett thanked Dr. Patton for giving the Gyro group a real insight into our role in Afghanistan.

FIRST POSTING

Len Stevens has applied for membership in our club. **Len** and his wife **Barbara** reside at **212 Country Club Point NW** in Edmonton and their postal code is **T6M 2J6**. Their telephone number is **780-481-4791** and their e-mail address is lastervens@shaw.ca **Len** is retired and is proposed by **Bruce Foy** and **John Ross**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Club, July 7th

Speakers: Sean Price and Jordi Weidman of the Edmonton Capitals Baseball Club who will talk about how the Capitals and the "Family Brands" Department fit into the Edmonton Oilers Organization.

Contact: Chuck Gerhart, 780-439-9792

Annual Gyro/Gyrette Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday, July 21st

Format: Nine hole Texas Scramble or Tournament Play. Please advise if you wish to play your own ball.

Time: 1:00 pm with a full steak BBQ to follow at 4:30 pm

Cost: \$55 per person for golf and dinner including complimentary wine or \$30 per person for the BBQ with wine. Everyone is guaranteed a prize!

The absolute deadline for confirmation of your attendance and payment is Monday, June 29th. The event will be cancelled if there is not sufficient response!

Contacts: Barry Walker 780-475-0983 and Roger Russell 780-434-4333

District VIII Convention, Cranbrook B.C., September 17th to 20th

Convention Hotel, Days Inn Cranbrook, Single Queen-\$84.95, Double Queen-\$94.95

Phone (250) 426-6683

Gyro Day at the Races, Sunday, September 27th.

Location: Edmonton Northlands

Time: 12:00 noon, prime rib buffet, \$37 per person

Races commence 1:00 pm

Contact: Val Pohl 780-462-0511