



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921**

**President-[John Mann](#), Past President-[Sam Gruden](#),  
1st Vice-President-[Jack Little](#), 2nd Vice-President-[David Dyck](#),  
Secretary-[Barry Walker](#), Treasurer-[Gary Campbell](#),  
Directors-[Michael Mant](#), [Jamie Fleming](#), [David Dyck](#), [Len Stevens](#)  
Database Administrator-[John Ross](#), Gyrolog Editor-[Fred Schulte](#)**

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## **JUNE 2014**

Those celebrating their birthdays in June are **Warren Garbutt** on the 9th and **Tony Mazzuca** on the 11th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Ken and Barbara Willan**, 48 years on the 4th; **Walter and Kay Yakimets**, 55 years on the 6th; **Roger and Janet Russell**, 54 years on the 11th; **Larry and Carol Dobson**, 47 years on the 17th; **Cliff and Kathryn Revell**, 44 years on the 18th; **Rob and Marilyn McLeod**, 27 years on the 19th; **Ron and Marlene Ramsey**, 54 years on the 24th and **Jack and Sylvia Little**, 45 years on the 28th.

The Edmonton Community Foundation, *The Gyro Club of Edmonton Fund* was established on April 15, 2008 with a contribution of \$16,500. Tribute gifts and interest increased the value of the fund to over \$21,000 in 2011. Our fund combined with the larger **Lee Community Playspace Fund** provides funding to 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 with priority given to low-income neighbourhoods.

At the end of 2012, the Lee Community Playspace fund held \$454,866 and the Gyro Club Fund held \$25,056. The two funds yielded Community Play Space Program funds totaling **\$47,000 in 2013**.

The recipient organizations were:

**Avonmore Community League**- Redevelopment of the Avonmore Park, including new equipment, wheelchair accessibility, gazebos, benches, trees and bike ramps. \$10,000.

**Hollick-Kenyon Park Society**- New development, including a playground, lighting, walkways, gathering areas and a spray pad. \$8500.

**Friends of Vital Grandin School Society**- Redevelopment of the Vital Grandin Playground. \$8500.

**St Martha School Advisory Society**- Redevelopment of the Monsignor Walter Fitzgerald Park, including new equipment, benches, sheltered areas, accessibility and lighting. \$10,000.

**South West Parents for French Immersion Society**- New development at St. Stanislaus School, including a playground, lighting, tables and benches. \$10,000.

A donation of \$4000 in 2013 by the club, generous contributions by club members and interest has increased the Gyro Club Fund to **\$32,091 at year end 2013**.

**President John Mann** welcomed 38 Gyros and two guests to the June 3rd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace. **Ari ("Dutch") Hoeksema** introduced his guest **Rick Halyk** and **Walter Yakimets** introduced his **Stephen Yakimets**.

**Rob McLeod** introduced our guest speaker, **Fred Schulte** who is a 20 year member of the Edmonton Gyro Club. Fred was born and raised in Calgary, attended the University's of Alberta and Calgary, graduating with a BA in Geography in 1968. He moved to Edmonton that year and started working with the provincial government in the Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Division.

In May 1971, the first provincial Environment Department was formed through the amalgamation of the Water Resources, Environmental Health and Land Development Divisions. He worked in the river basin planning area from 1971-1973.

In 1973, Fred moved to the Land Reclamation Division of Alberta Environment. Part of the Divisions mandate was to provide technical advice to Regional Planning Commissions and municipalities. This advice included the suitability of land development near and within **river flood plains**. For eleven years, Fred worked directly with municipalities, planning authorities and land developers to provide information on the potential of flooding within proposed land development areas. **This advice was not binding or easily enforceable!**

In 1984, Fred became Director of the Environment Assessment Division which was responsible for the EIA Review process for all major projects such as pulp mills, coal mines, oil sands plants and major recreational developments.

In 1993, he became Director of the Pollution Control Division which was responsible for the enforcement of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and in 1998, became Director of Enforcement and Monitoring.

He retired from the provincial government in 2001. From 2002-2007, he was a consultant to Alberta Energy on regulatory reform and oil sands public consultation.

Fred joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton in 1994, sponsored by John Ross and Allan Warrack, was President in 2006-07 and Editor of the Gyrolog since 2008.

He has been **married to Paulette for 46 years**, they have two daughters, Margo and Jill and are proud grandparents of five girls and two boys aged 15 years to 8 months.

Fred has a passion for running full marathons, having run eleven since 2005. Number 12 was in Boston on April 21st at age 70.

Fred gave a power-point slide presentation entitled **BUILDING ON FLOODPLAINS**.

- A majority of Alberta communities were established on rivers and creeks because of the need for drinking water and the transportation of people and goods.
- Flooding of many of these communities has occurred many times in the past 100-160 years.
- About 60 Alberta communities have flood hazard (plain) mapping which has been prepared by the province, the federal government and private engineering consultants. This mapping is 20-30 years old.

The **North Saskatchewan River** has flooded its banks more than 20 times in the last 160 years. Twin Forts of Fort Edmonton (1801) and Fort Augustus (1802) located on Rossdale Flats were swamped several times as predicted by the First Nations people. The **floods of 1825 and 1830** were the final straw; Hudson's Bay Co. Factor, John Rowand decided to move the operation uphill to bench land below the present day Alberta Legislature.

The 1915 flood rose 39 feet and flooded the Edmonton neighbourhoods of Walterdale, Rossdale, Cloverdale and Riverdale. This was the beginning of the end for **Walterdale** as a residential area and by the 1950's, the Kinsmen Club had acquired much of the land for recreational facilities. Partial flood proofing of Riverdale, Cloverdale and Rossdale has been undertaken; some homes/condos would be flooded in a 1 in 100 year event. The city of Edmonton has designated the North Saskatchewan River Valley as a recreation area and new residential areas will not be allowed.

- Extreme rainfall events in the Bow, Elbow and Sheep River watersheds caused major flooding in Canmore, Bragg Creek, Black Diamond, Turner Valley, High River and Calgary between **June 19-22, 2013**. High water on the Bow River then moved downstream and flooded Medicine Hat.
- The early stages of a slow-moving storm dropped 40 mm (1.6 in.) of rain in the headwaters of the Elbow River before the main storm hit.

- ❑ Over the next 36 hours, the most intense portion of the storm added a staggering 240 mm (9.5 in.)
- ❑ About 175 mm (6.9 in.) of snow equivalent moisture remained at the summit of Little Elbow, 40 minutes west of Calgary which added to the total precipitation.
- ❑ The storm was slow moving and released high intensity rainfall for 24 hours.

*Taken from article by Prof. Uldis Silins, University of Alberta.*

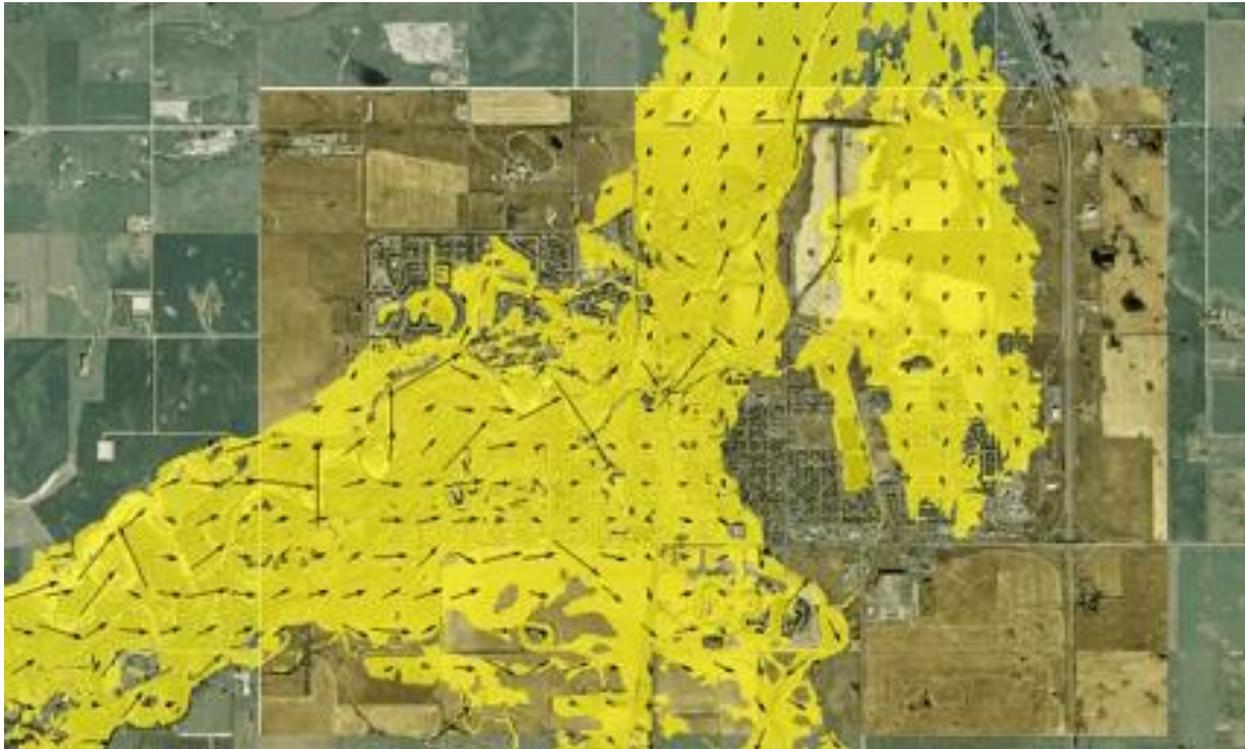
**Cougar Creek in Canmore**, normally a dry watercourse became a raging torrent that destroyed a number of residential properties and washed out the Trans Canada Highway halting all commercial truck traffic for a number of weeks.

The **City of Calgary** experienced severe flooding in downtown areas due to flooding of both the Elbow and Bow Rivers. One hundred thousand Calgarians out of a total population of 1.2 million were directly impacted with basement and first floor flooding.



**Downtown Calgary Flooding**

The **Town of High River** experienced the most severe flood event from the Highwood River in over a century of settlement.



**High River Flooding- June 20-22, 2013**

The 12,000 residents of High River were all affected by the flooding and the Town's future is still uncertain. Residents had to flee a wall of water, were kept from returning to their homes for one to four weeks and then had to deal with the massive cleanup. Residents lives have been re-shaped emotionally, physically and spiritually. It may take 3 -5 years before things start to feel normal again.

Thousands of Calgarians came daily to the town as volunteers to help with the massive cleanup of debris and damage from flooded basements. The overall support from Alberta municipalities and citizens has been unprecedented.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has rated the 2013 Alberta flooding as the most expensive and largest natural disaster to date in Canada. We can expect higher insurance premiums to cover flooding of residences from extreme rainfall events and direct flooding from rivers. The insurance industry and home owners will

demand updated and more accurate flood hazard mapping. Flood insurance may not be available in some high-risk areas.

### Looking Ahead

- Province has hired consultants to develop mitigation project proposals:
  - Diversion ditch around High River.
  - Underground conduit upstream of Glenmore reservoir to Bow River in Calgary.
  - Dry pond detention berms at headwaters of Highwood and Elbow Rivers.
  - Dry pond detention berms in foothills on Highwood and Sheep Rivers.

The Town of High River with the approval of the Province has raised all of the existing dikes by four feet and has also placed a temporary dike along the south boundary of town to prevent flooding during this rainfall season. A decision on a diversion canal and its location is yet to be made. The Town Council has also made the decision to demolish all residences in the neighbourhoods of Beachwood Estates and Wallaceville which are in the Highwood River floodway.

**Walter Yakimets** thanked the speaker for an interesting and thought-provoking presentation. Yours truly gives thanks to **Stephen Yakimets** for his skilful operation of the power point system.

The Free Lunch draw was won by **Ken Korchinski**.

We wish to acknowledge the resignation of **John Stroppa** who was sponsored by **Roger Russell** and joined our club in **1985**. John was **President** in 1993-94 and served as **Treasurer** from at least 1996 until 2002. John played for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 1950 and then took on the role of an Official with the Canadian Football League for many years starting in 1951. We wish **John** and **Yvette** all the best; they will be missed!



**John Stroppa** Photo by Ed Kaiser, Edmonton Journal, November 28, 2010

It is with regret that we acknowledge the death of **Marion Morstad** on May 19th. at the age of 81 years. Marion was born on May 2, 1933 to parents Roy and Sadie Bacon and was raised on a farm in the vicinity of 50th Street NE Edmonton. She attended Poplar Lake School until her parents moved to Maple Ridge, B.C. where she finished High School.. Her parents returned to the Nisku area to farm again but Marion moved to Calgary and started working for Shell Oil. She quickly accumulated new friends including her future husband, **Merrill Morstad**, a Saskatchewan farm boy. Marion and Merrill were married on December 4, 1954 and were soon blessed with twin boys, Cal and Cam. As her family indicated at the Memorial Service held in Edmonton on June 13th, in addition to a lot of work, the twins were fun!

A son, Kelly, a daughter Dawn and another son Todd completed the family. The Morstad's moved to Edmonton and enjoyed an adventure filled life with skiing in the winter and summers at their Pigeon Lake

cottage in the 70's and extensive travelling in the 80's. **Merrill joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton** and was President in 1992-93 until his untimely death in office.

Marion's philosophy in life was **Stay Calm, Carry On!** which was one of the messages used prominently on War World II military posters. She also empowered her children with the credo, **Get Things Done!** After Merrill's death, she travelled the world and her favourite trip was to Hudson's Bay to view the polar bears. Her family described her as unflappable, even in her later years. She had an intense pride in Edmonton and couldn't let litter lie without picking it up. She played bridge for more than 50 years and was an active member of the Edmonton Gyrettes. She will be missed!



Twenty seven Gyros attended the June 7th Luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Our guest speakers were **Arv and Berni Hardin**, members of the Edmonton Gyro Club. Their presentation was entitled **Expat Life-Living and Working in Saudi Arabia**.

Arv and Berni moved to Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1994 where Arv was employed by the **Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC)**. SABIC was a "Crown Corporation" incorporated in 1978 with a strong nationalistic vision. It built 10 world-scale petrochemical plants in five years and now has 25 plants. From 1993-2005, SABIC grew from 23rd to 9th in global position. It is now 2nd. Its reason for success-low cost feedstock's. The company's initial weakness was in engineering, technology and modern business practices.

Arv was initially hired as Senior Advisor for R&D and reported to the Director General of R&D. Working with Directors, he developed R & D policies, procedures, quality systems, technical training programs, seminars and corporate technical symposiums. In June 1999, Arv resigned out of frustration and asked to move to headquarters where he worked in the Polyolefin's SBU. Here he worked on strategic planning, technology strategy, competitive analyses, acquisition analysis/due diligence and merger/corporate culture integration.

Berni travelled to Saudi Arabia on Arv's Iqama (residence and work permit) and was forbidden to work, however she was able to undertake a number of relatively short-term assignments. She assisted the U.S. Immigration Services at the Raffah Iraqi Gulf War Refugee Camp, undertook TQM Quality improvement process writing at the Green Crescent Hospital, re-wrote resumes for Saudis and others, was Educational Program Coordinator at the Al Manahil Women's Centre and was involved with the delivery of educational and professional development programs for the Steven Covey Organization. Berni also had access to bridge, mahjong, ladies golf, shopping, coffee/tea parties, Canadian Women of Riyadh and diplomatic contacts through bridge.

As an advisor, Arv was an assumed expert, no professional development was provided. Considerable respect was based on education, he was sought out by business groups, managers and individuals for advice. He was not in the line-management system, always an outsider. Since advisors are outsiders, they can speak out in ways and on issues that Saudis and others cannot. The business perks and travel were restricted in many ways with the smallest offices and poorest views.

The Saudis were generally very friendly, honest people who seek to advance and see their families healthy, educated and advancing. Their professional and technical competencies were highly variable. There is a very high tendency towards tribal and family nepotism with a very deleterious effect on work performance. Management style is very intuitive and not analytical, although that is changing. Performance management is punishment focused and misdirected. Example, Get there on time but I don't care what you do once you get here!

In summary, Berni said more than once, "Its wonderful and I wouldn't miss it for anything". As for Arv, professionally it was unique and I'm very glad we went. It was a place for constructive engagement, using one's skills, learning and growing. For the two of us, we were far more active than ever in Canada. We had a social network of Canadians, Brits, Amreekis, Lebanese, Swedes, South Africans, Taiwanese, Palestinians, Indians and Pakistanis. Arv and Berni returned to Canada in 2003.

Thanks to **Warren Garbutt** and **Arv** and **Berni** for organizing this unique presentation!

The Free Lunch draw was won by **Mort Morter**.

One hundred and ninety Gyros and Gyrettes attended the **Gyro International and District VIII Conventions** held in **Wallace, Idaho June 15-22**. Members from nine districts and 33 clubs enjoyed a variety of events including Radio Day at KWAL in Osburn, a melodrama staged by six young Wallace actors, the traditional pub crawl led by two dozen trumpeters and drummers from the Elks Drum and Bugle Corps; an afternoon of cutthroat Bocce; the Gyro International Executive Installation, golf at the Galena Ridge Course, the Lead Creek Derby and the District VIII Executive Installation. Nine members of the Edmonton Club attended including the **Larson's**, the **Dobson's**, the **Swanson's**, the **Schulte's** and **President John Mann**.

The **Wallace Gyro Club** is celebrating its **80th Anniversary** this year. The club was chartered on **May 19th, 1934**. The club voted in September 1934, to support the Padre Bill Jones Cigarette Fund. This fund was set up in Cranbrook, B.C. to supply cigarettes to American and Canadian soldiers in service overseas, and the Cranbrook Club asked the Wallace Club to support the fund. In 1942, the District Governor, Horton Ostrander from Wallace described the **Cranbrook Barrel Derby** at the May 14th meeting. The Wallace Club decided to sponsor a **Lead Creek**

**Derby** which would be held each June to raise funds for the U.S.O. or some other worthy cause, giving defense bonds as prizes. The winners of the first Lead Creek Derby received their prizes from movie actress and former Wallace citizen, **Lana Turner** in 1942. The seventh annual derby held in 1948 awarded a 1948 Model Desoto Sedan to the winner. In the initial years of the derby, various races were held on the south fork of the Coeur D' Alene River between Mullan and Wallace and Kellogg and Wallace. By 1964, the Wallace Gyro Club started awarding 1000 silver dollars as first prize. This practice continues today and funds raised provide college scholarships to graduating high school students in Mullan and Wallace and support for the Gyro Day's Carnival. This year's Derby used the traditional multi-coloured plastic ball dropped from the Last Chance Bridge in Mullan. The ball arrived in Wallace after a journey of approximately three and one half hours in the south fork of the Coeur D'Alene River. Wallace Gyros helped many times to extricate the ball from low-hanging tree branches and large boulders.



**Gyro Ball leaving Mullan on June 18, 2011**

**The Gyro District VIII Business Meeting** was held on June 19th and club representatives voted to abolish the **2nd Lt. Governor** position by a vote of 59 to 29. The location of the 2015 District Convention was confirmed at Fairmont Hot Springs in British Columbia.

**The District VIII Best Bulletin Award** was announced for 2013-14 with a different approach. Three awards were given: Most Informative, The GYROLOG-Edmonton Club; the Most Humorous, Parks Point-Sherwood Park and the Best Overall Bulletin, The GYRODEO-Calgary Club.

The Gyro International Meeting was held on June 20th and the 2014-15 Executive was approved: President, Lonnie Anderson; 1st VP, Chris Snyder; 2nd VP, Dana Davidson; 3rd VP, Dale Woodroffe and Immediate Past International President, Mike McNally. **Congratulations to Dale Woodroffe from the Stampede City Club!**

**'Fast Fred'**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 15th**

**Speaker: Nathan IP**, Edmonton Public School Board Trustee, Ward H

**Topic:** Successes and challenges of the Edmonton Public Schools.

**Contacts: Jack Brown and Bruce Swanson**

For our **July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting** we will celebrate our club's heritage with an old fashioned **'Picnic at the Playground' in Fort Edmonton Park.**

You are encouraged to invite family and friends to join us.

Plan to arrive at the 'GYRO Playground picnic shelter' sometime between 11:30 and noon. The GYRO Playground is behind the Fire Hall on 1905 Street.

Bring your own picnic lunch with you.

If you arrive early someone will be there to welcome you, then keep an eye on your picnic lunch while you wander the park until our noon gathering.

'Grandpa' will provide ice cream cones for dessert.

Fort Edmonton Park opens at 10am. Buy your own admission. An adult day-pass is \$18.15 GST included.

Child, youth and senior day-pass is \$13.55 GST incl.

(15% discount if you show your AMA membership card)

Once inside the Park, stroll along the boardwalk to the GYRO Playground (1/2 mile?) or take the Street Car and disembark at Hotel Selkirk.

Fort Edmonton has a very well developed website...

[fortedmontonpark.ca](http://fortedmontonpark.ca)

**Questions? call John Ross 780-435-7478 or Mike Matei 780-930-1780, your event organizers.**

p.s. If you would like to treat yourself to a pre-packed picnic lunch, Fort Selkirk offers this service. \$17/ea.

Details at: [fortedmontonpark.ca/hotel-selkirk/johnsons-cafe/picnic-lunch-basket](http://fortedmontonpark.ca/hotel-selkirk/johnsons-cafe/picnic-lunch-basket) or call 780-496-7227(1)

**Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday, August 5th**

**Format: Modified Texas Scramble, 9 holes**

**Tee times: Commencing around 1:00 pm**

**Cost: \$65 for golf and barbeque**

**As usual prizes are needed!**

**Contacts: the Walkers and Russell's**