



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President

Bill Taylor
780 430-0330

1stVice-President

Ari Hoeksema
780 421-7776

Past President

Leon Lubin
780 454-9712

Secretary

Barry Walker
780 475-0983

Treasurer

Mike Matei
780 930-1780

Directors

Chuck Gerhart
780 439-9792
Ken Willan
780 434-1306
Warren Garbutt
780-435-2961
Dick Moskalyk
780-435-6922

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
780 434-092

JUNE 2010

Warren Garbutt celebrated his birthday on June 9th. The June wedding anniversaries are **Ken** and **Barbara Willan**, 44 years on the 4th; **Walter** and **Kay Yakimets**, 51 years on the 6th; **Roger** and **Janet Russell**, 50 years on the 11th; **Larry** and **Carol Dobson**, 43 years on the 17th; **Cliff** and **Kathryn Revell**, 40 years on the 18th, **Ron** and **Marlene Ramsey**, 50 years on the 24th and **Jack** and **Sylvia Little**, 41 years on the 28th.

Forty eight members of the **Edmonton Gyro Bridge Club** held their Year End Dinner and Bridge Evening at the Highlands Golf Club on April 28th. The winner of the Merrill Morstad Grand Aggregate Bridge trophy for the most points during the bridge season was **Marty Larson**. Marty has now won the trophy five times! In second place was **Jack Ellis**; the highest score by the opposite sex was **Terrie Ellis**. Other prize winners were **Jack Ellis** with the highest score on a single evening with 7,750 points; **Marg Foy** with the highest evening score by the opposite sex and **Cliff Revell** with the highest evening score for a spare. **Ernie Siegel** won the Walter Yakimets Host of the Year award.

It is with regret that we acknowledge the resignation of **Peter Carter** who joined our club in 1996. We wish Peter and Eileen the best in their ongoing business endeavors.

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had left nothing of value. Later when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found a poem. It's quality and quantity so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

The old man's sole bequest to posterity has appeared in magazines, slide presentations and on the internet.

Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking..... When you're looking at me?
A crabby old man..... Not very wise,
Uncertain of habit..... With faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food..... And makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice..... 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice..... The things that you do.
And forever is losing..... A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not..... Lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding..... The long day to fill?
Is that what you are thinking?..... Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse..... You are not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am..... As I sit here so still,
As I do at you bidding..... As I eat at you will.
I'm a small child of Ten..... With a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters..... Who love one another.

A young boy of Sixteen..... With wings on his feet.
Dreaming that soon now..... A lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty..... My heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows..... That I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now..... I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide..... And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty..... My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other..... With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons..... Have grown and are gone,
But my woman's beside me..... To see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, babies play "round my knee,
Again we know children..... My loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me..... My wife is now dead.
I look at the future..... Shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing..... Young of their own.
And I think of the years..... And the love that I've known.

I'm an old man..... And nature is cruel.
Tis jest to make old age..... Look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles..... Grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone..... Where once I had a heart.

But inside this old carcass..... A young guy still dwells,
And now and again..... My battered heart swells.
I remember the joys..... I remember the pain.
And I loving and living..... Life over again.

I think of the years, all too few..... Gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact..... That nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people..... Open and see.
Not a crabby old man..... Look closer...See ME!!

**Remember this poem when you next meet
An older person who you might brush aside
Without looking at the young soul within..**

We will all, one day, be there, too!

President Bill Taylor welcomed 29 Gyro's and one guest to the June 8th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Val Pohl** led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **Bill Taylor** presented the *Grace*. **Chuck Gerhart** introduced his long-time friend of 50 years and new member applicant, **Cliff French**.

Barry Walker announced that the annual **Gyro/Gyrette Golf Tournament** will be held on August 3rd at the Legends Golf Course. The cost will be \$55 for nine holes of golf and a steak barbeque or \$30 for the barbeque only.

Dick Nichols reported on another successful year for the club **Hockey Pool** and \$2000 has been transferred to the Benevolence Fund.

Treasurer Mike Matei presented the **Financial Statements** for the year ending March 31, 2010 which were subject to an audit by **Jack Ellis**. On a motion by **Fred Schulte** and seconded by **Marty Larson**, the Financial Statements were approved unanimously by the members. The proposed **General Fund Budget** for the year ending March 31, 2011 was also presented and approved on a motion by **Val Pohl** and **David Burnett**.

Past District Governor, Marty Larson spoke about the history of the Edmonton Gyro Club which was chartered in July 1921 and the fact that many of the founding members were young returning veterans from the First World War. Our Club was very active in the formative years in support of District and International conventions. Our new members have an opportunity this summer to attend the District VIII Convention which will be hosted by the Sherwood Park Gyro Club.

Marty then proceeded to call on three of our new members, **Michael Mant**, **Gary Campbell** and **Jack Little** to be formally inducted into the Gyro Club of Edmonton. **Walter Yakimets**, sponsor of Michael Mant; **Allan Warrack**, sponsor of Gary Campbell and **David Burnett**, sponsor of Jack Little presented Gyro pins to our new members. Our new members were then welcomed individually with hearty handshakes by all in attendance.

Jack Slobodan presented a thumbnail sketch of his life and career in Western Canada. Jack was born on Section 13, Township 28, Range 27, West of the Second Meridian near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He attended the University of Saskatchewan in Regina and in 1963 attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He was employed with CESSCO, a pressure vessel manufacturing company in Edmonton for 15 years. He also worked with KRUPP Industries Canada in sales and marketing. One of his more interesting challenges was with DRECO Manufacturing who were placed into receivership at the time of his initial employment in the business development area. At this time, the oil industry was in a slump and DRECO concentrated on structural steel manufacturing. After the economy improved, the company came out of receivership and went back into the business of building drilling rigs.



Gary Campbell

Michael Mant

Jack Little

Jack then worked as a manager for Weldco-Beales Manufacturing Inc. which specialized in the design and manufacturing of specialized heavy equipment attachments for construction, forestry, mining and road maintenance industries. Prior to his retirement in 2009, Jack was plant manager for 12 years with Halliburton in Edmonton which manufactured computerized down hole drilling tools.

In retirement, Jack enjoys the preparation of food as a U.P.S. (Ukrainian Perogy Surgeon).



**Bill Taylor Allan Warrack Walter Yakimets Jack Little Marty Larson
Gary Campbell Michael Mant David Burnett**

Len Stevens began his biography by indicating that he has been married 52 years to **Barbara** and that they have three children and four grandchildren. Len was born and raised in St Catharines, Ontario where he attended Connaught School from grades one to eight. Here he enjoyed soccer, softball, track and field and road hockey. A pee wee hockey team needed a replacement goalie and Len was asked to help out when the team went to playoffs. From that point on, Len was involved in goal tending at all three age levels. Len then went on to play in bantam, midget and juvenile leagues. The juvenile league team was one of the farm teams for the Chicago Black Hawks at the time when there was only six teams in the NHL. At this point in time Len made a decision not to pursue a professional hockey league career partly due to lack of opportunities; NHL teams carried only one goalie.

Len began his working career as a management trainee with Beaver Lumber which had 365 retail branches and their headquarters in Winnipeg. His initial work experience included time in St. Catharines, Newmarket, Sarnia and then to Grimsby, Ontario as Branch Manager . In 1969, Len moved to Edmonton as Manager of the 51st. Ave. store; followed by his appointment as District Manager of urban stores and then Merchandize Manager for Alberta. After Molson's took over Beaver, Len went to W.R. Ziegler Ltd. as General Sales Manager. This was followed by nine years with another lumber company. Len then became General Manager of Brown and Rutherford, a lumber/building supplies company in Winnipeg. Back in Edmonton, Len worked with his son to set up Dynamo Auto Services. The last six years of Len's working career was spent with West Fraser Mills in their Panel Board Division.

Len retired in 2002 and has continued to coach minor hockey as well as participate in downhill skiing, his passion for the past 40 years.

Cliff Revell was the winner of the free lunch draw.

Barry Walker was appointed **Chair of the Athabasca University Governing Council** by the Hon. Doug Horner on December 11, 2009. Athabasca University operates with a bicameral governance system. Governing Council members are appointed by the Government of Alberta. The president of the university is an ex officio member of the Council. Governing Council membership consists of the following: one Chairperson, up to 10 public members, two academic staff, two students, one tutor, one non-academic staff member, one graduate student and one alumnus. At a formal ceremony held on **June 10th** in Athabasca, Barry was installed as Chair of Governing Council. During his tenure as a public member on Governing Council, Barry has served as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committees, and as a member of the Human Resources and Executive Committees of Governing Council. Barry's term of office will be three years.

Congratulations Barry!



photo by David Burnett

The Athabasca University Registrar Assists Barry Walker With His New Robes of Office on June 10, 2010. The University Mace is in the foreground.

Allan Warrack became President of the **Canadian Club of Edmonton** on June 16th. The Canadian Club is an organization of patriotic Canadians who are interested in the activities of their country and its future. The first Club was founded in 1893 in Hamilton, Ontario by a group of leading Canadian citizens who were worried at the lack of patriotism in the country at that time. Canada seemed to have a lack of direction of its own. Sir John A. Macdonald has passed away and the young country struggled with four Prime Ministers in five years. Railway expansion had slowed, the economy was in the doldrums and there was little agreement on Canada's future. The needed injection of patriotism came from Charles McCullough and his group of friends.

The Canadian Club of Edmonton was founded in 1906 and members meet monthly to hear interesting and outstanding speakers addressing Canadian topics. Gyro members are welcome and the cost of joining is only \$50.

President Bill welcomed 30 members and one guest to the June 22nd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Alan Rusler** led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **Jim Lochhead** presented the *Grace*.

Ken Willan introduced our guest speaker **Gary McCuaig** who was born in Toronto in 1945 and raised in Chatham, Ontario. Gary attended the University of Western Ontario in London and graduated with a law degree. In 1978 he moved to Edmonton with his wife and son and became a Crown Attorney with the provincial justice department. In 1990, Gary was appointed Chief Crown Prosecutor, a position he held for 10 years.

Gary was interested in doing some overseas legal work and applied to the United Nations to be a crown prosecutor in February 2002. He was offered a six month position in Kosovo with the U.N. and took a six month leave of absence from Alberta Justice from November 2002 to May 2003.

Kosovo, part of the former Republic of Yugoslavia was an autonomous province of Serbia, but not a republic. Kosovo was considered by Serbia as its cultural heartland dating back to the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. Kosovo's present 2 million population is 92% Muslim of Albanian ancestry and 4% Serbs who are located in mostly protected enclaves. The area is landlocked with a length of 100 miles and a width of 80 miles and is three to four hours to anywhere. The capital is Pristina.



In 1989, Serbian nationalist, Slobodan Milosevic began the manipulation of nationalist tensions and from 1990 Kosovars were systematically excluded from public life and 800,000 lost their homes. He sought the ethnic cleansing of Kosovars but ended up with the reverse. NATO undertook a bombing campaign between March 24 and June 12, 1999. Under Resolution 1244, the UN became the government of Kosovo with the largest mission ever undertaken with a contribution of one billion dollars per year. The UN used the European Inquisitorial legal system and by regulation established the Department of Justice. The existing court system was left in place for minor charges and the UN prosecutors were given a mandate to deal with terrorism, organized crime, war crimes, ethnic murders and corruption. Genocide was not part of their mandate. Panels of three or five international judges heard trials and the UN prosecutors could take over any case from the local prosecutors.

Under the Inquisitory System, judges ask questions first, followed by the prosecutors. Verbatim transcripts are not taken but instead judges summaries are used which are ultimately signed by the accused. Witnesses cannot be kept anonymous, names are published in newspapers; many are then killed. Everyone knows everyone. The judicial process is very slow; judges must travel around the country for various trials. Security is non-existent; phones and computers are tapped.

Gary McCuaig was involved in the prosecution of four Kosovo Liberation Army soldiers, including a General. Security was provided by five body guards to Gary during the working day but the emphasis was really on the liability of the UN and not security of the individual. There is widespread cynicism by the public regarding the administration of justice for the Kosovars and the Serbs. The rich and the criminal element are viewed as untouchable. The prosecution and jailing of any of these people even for only a few months or years may inspire some local citizens to take on some challenges or issues to improve their way of life. Justice and security are still under the control of the UN. In February 2008, Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence; worldwide support of this declaration has been lukewarm with only 60 of 200 countries offering their official recognition. Unemployment remains in the 40-60% range.

Marty Larson thanked Gary for his very informative and humourous presentation. Marty was also the recipient of the free lunch draw.

FIRST 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Gini's Restaurant, 10706-142 Street, July 6th

Speaker: Tony Kernahan

Topic: Street Cars, Past, Present and Future

International & District VII Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, St Paul, Minnesota, July 11-18, 2010. More information available at www.oryg.gyro.ws and www.international.gyro.ws

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 20th.

Speaker: Bob Steadward, founder of the Steadward Centre for Personal and Physical Achievement, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta.

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

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.