



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-David Winfield, Past President-Bruce Swanson,
1st Vice-President- Chuck Gerhart, 2nd Vice-President-Dunc Mills
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Bob Bahniuk, Ron Trant, Fred Schulte, Tony Mazzuca
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte
Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com**

NOVEMBER 2019

Marty Larson celebrated his 87th birthday on November 14th.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **John** and **Helen Ross**, 56 years on the 2nd; **Jack** and **Terrie Ellis**, 53 years on the 19th; **Jim** and **Gayl Lepp**, 61 years on the 22nd and **Arv** and **Bernie Hardin**, 54 years on the 23rd.

Andy Friderichsen passed away on October 17, 2019 at 98 years. He was predeceased by his loving wife Blanche in 2016. He is survived by his sister Judith Cornell (Tucson, AZ), a brother Niels (Stella), plus nieces Poulaine, Frederikke, Louise and nephew Frederik in Denmark. His sister-in-law Jean Webb, nephews Roderick (Susan) Thompson, Brian (Angela) Webb, nieces Colleen (Brent) Nicholls, Deborah Webb, Shauna (Ed) Taaffe, all of Alberta. He was predeceased by his sister Julie in 2011. Andy, a 35-year member of our Gyro Club was sponsored by Roger Russell in 1984.



Andreas (Andy) Friderichsen
May 13, 1921 – October 17, 2019

President David Winfield welcomed 37 Gyros and two guests to the November 5th Luncheon Meeting held at the Faculty Club. **Alan Rusler** led the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace.

Treasurer Gary Campbell presented financial information for the year ending April 30, 2019 which included Benevolence Fund Transactions, Assets, Liabilities and Members Equity.

Gary Campbell moved that the **Financial Statements for the Year Ending April 30, 2019** be approved. **Allan Warrack** seconded the motion and the members gave their approval unanimously.

Jim Lepp introduced our guest speaker and club member **Chuck Gerhart**. Chuck was born and raised in Mannville, Alberta, the town put on the map by Doctor's **Fred Otto** and **Dan Hasinoff**. He attended the University of Alberta and obtained two Degrees; an undergraduate one in Pharmacy and a Master's in Business Administration.

Chuck married **Myrna Whiston**, also from Mannville, 54 years ago. Myrna and Chuck have three children who have blessed them with four granddaughters and one grandson. He worked with Woodward's Department Stores as a Pharmacist and Manager of Drugs and Cosmetics. After completion of his MBA, Chuck began his 36-year career with Hudson's Bay in Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Toronto. A philosophy that one should give back to the communities you live in led to many varied volunteer positions over the years.

Chuck joined the Edmonton Gyro Club in March 2006, sponsored by **Walter Yakimets**. He is currently Vice-President. Leisure activities are varied from bridge, golf, curling and performances by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at the Winspear. Travel has become an important activity in retirement both to visit family in Victoria, Squamish, and Kuala Lumpur and to experience different cultures around the world.

Their top priority is to spend as much time as possible with their grandchildren and children and be part of their lives as they grow up and experience life's challenges.

Chuck began his presentation by indicating that with **Remembrance Day** approaching we are reminded of the SACRIFICES made by many so that we can enjoy the freedoms we do today. Canadians have participated in many Theatres over the years.

We owe a debt of GRATITUDE to all who have served our Country in wars and peace. I know of one Veteran in our Club, and that is **Captain Jack Bowen**, retired. Are there any other veterans with us today? We thank all Veterans for their service.

My presentation will cover the many IMPRESSIVE Cemeteries, Memorials, and Ceremonies that serve to remind us of the great battles fought and sacrifices made by our Canadian and Allied Troops. Great efforts are being made to keep their stories alive and REMEMBER them.

We begin our journey at the Essex Farm Cemetery, then see the well maintained and diverse Cemeteries representing the countries that participated in the Great War on the Western front. Next, we will see Memorials REMEMBERING battles fought by Canadian Soldiers; the Brooding Soldier Canadian Monument; the Hill 62 and Passchendaele Memorials; the Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont Hamel; and the impressive Vimy Ridge Memorial Park. We will conclude with the Menin Gate Memorial and the daily Last Post Ceremonies there.

The Essex Farm Cemetery is located just outside Ypres in Belgium. The Essex Farm Bunker sat 1,800 meters from the front line and served as an advance DRESSING STATION to treat the wounded.

It was here on May 3, 1915 that **Canadian Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae** penned his immortal poem, “**In Flanders Fields**”, after witnessing the death of his friend Alexis Helmer the day before. | This famous poem remains relevant some 104 years later to remind us why remembering is important.

These are the Bunkers John McCrae worked in to provide emergency medical care to the wounded soldiers injured at the front lines nearby.

This Cemetery is typical of those near the front lines where the soldiers who died were usually buried nearby. Note that the spacing and orientation of the headstones varies. Burial parties were under pressure to get the job done quickly to avoid danger to themselves, so we see this irregular placement of the headstones.

With the UNBELIEVABLE CARNAGE of the Great War, where THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS of Soldiers perished without sufficient evidence to identify them, there are many grave markers for these unknown soldiers in all Cemeteries. All have the words chosen by Rudyard Kipling inscribed on them, "*A soldier of the Great War, known unto God*". The Maple Leaf emblem on this Headstone identifies the Unknown Soldier as a Canadian.

Tyne Cot Cemetery is the LARGEST British war Cemetery in the world containing 11,956 Commonwealth and 4 German war dead. 8,369 of the graves are UNKNOWN. The headstones for Commonwealth graves are a tablet with the Country or Regiment in the circle identifying where they are from. The Commonwealth soldiers came from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa to name a few.

The semi-circular wall on the left side of the Tyne Cot Memorial is missing. It holds the NAMES of 34,946 SOLDIERS who have no known grave and who died after August 15, 1917.

The German Military Cemeteries that I have visited are markedly different in appearance. The **Langemark Cemetery** contains 44,304 German war dead. The flat markers in stone bear the names of as many as 16 soldiers. The three crosses and use of dark colors creates a SOMBER SETTING. Viewing the bronze statues of 4 German soldiers slumped in mourning at the graveside of their comrades elicits a special CHILLING EMOTION.

The Brooding Soldier Canadian Forces Memorial near **Sint-Julien, Belgium** was erected in 1922 in honor of the memory of the 2,000 soldiers of the 1st. Canadian Division who died near this spot in April

1915. The plaque reads: *“This Column marks the battlefield where 18,000 Canadians on the British Left withstood the first German Gas Attacks the 22-24 April 1915. 2,000 fell and lie buried nearby”*. The bowed head of the Soldier faces towards the direction from where the gas came, and his hands rest on the butt of his rifle as though he is keeping watch. This position is known as “ARMS REVERSED” and is a Military tradition used as a mark of respect for a fallen Soldier.

Two other Significant Canadian Memorials in Belgium are the **Hill 62** and **Passchendaele** Memorials. During fighting on Hill 62 and neighboring Mount Sorrell, the Canadian Troops achieved their first notable victory of the War, albeit at the terrible cost of 8,430 KILLED, WOUNDED or MISSING. The engraving reads: *“Here at Mount Sorrel and on the Line from Hooge to St Elo the Canadian Corps Fought in defense of Ypres-April-August 1916”*.

The **Passchendaele Crest Farm Memorial** honors the Battle of Passchendaele that took place from October to November 1917. Canadians fought with EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE under intense fire and horrific conditions through mud to capture Passchendaele Ridge. The Canadian Corps sustained approximately 16,000 CASULTIES during this assault. The engraving reads *“The Canadian Corps in Oct/Nov 1917 advanced across this valley, then a treacherous morass, captured and held Passchendaele Ridge”*.

The **Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont - Hamel, France** is located at the northern end of the section of the front that was chosen for the Somme Offensive which began on July 1, 1916. Newfoundland, at that time, was not a part of Canada and was the oldest British Colony. Unfortunately, a mine explosion occurred 10 minutes earlier than planned, alerting the Germans to the attack and they were able to mow down the Newfoundland Soldiers as they surged from the trenches. Only 110 OUT OF 780 MEN remained unharmed after 30 minutes of fighting. The striking Bronze statue of a Caribou is the Newfoundland Division’s emblem and it stands on a mound looking out towards the German lines.

Canadian National Vimy Ridge Memorial Park. On April 9, 1917 the Canadian Corps assaulted the SEEMINGLY IMPREGNABLE, Vimy Ridge and delivered victory. 3,600 CANADIAN LIVES WERE LOST during the four-day battle.

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial Park is a parkland with many impressive highlights in addition to the Canadian Memorial which is like no other Memorial in SIZE, IMPACT and STUNNING BEAUTY.

The park contains two Cemeteries. 11,285 Canadian Trees and Shrubs have been planted to HONOUR the number of Canadians missing in the Great War in France. The mine craters, trenches, and no man's land with unexploded artillery shells open only to the sheep who graze happily there, are REMINDERS of the battles fought at this site. Seeing people at the Monument illustrates just how immense it is. Designed by Canadian Sculptor Walter Seymour, this majestic Monument took 11 years to build. The towering pylons contain almost 6,000 tons of limestone brought in from an abandoned Roman quarry.

The **Menin Gate Memorial**, built in 1927, is an impressive Remembrance Monument and marks the spot where soldiers departed for the Front. Carved into the interior walls are the names of 54,896 British and Commonwealth Soldiers killed in WW1 whose graves are unknown and who died before August 16, 1917. Soldiers who went missing after then have their names inscribed on the arches at Tyne Cot Cemetery. The section on the other side leading up the steps is where the names of Australian and New Zealand troops are inscribed. The Canadian Memorial section, across from the arch just seen, features the inscribed names of Canadians soldiers. As a mark of RESPECT, the Menin Gate road is closed every evening and at 8:00 PM members of the local Fire Brigade sound the LAST POST.

We attended the Last Post ceremony with a few hundred Civilians, Veterans, and members of the Belgium Armed Forces. After the Last Post was played the Soldiers and two families laid Wreaths creating a very moving experience. In **April 2016, Jack Bowen** and two others,

representing the **49th. Battalion of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment** attended this Last Post Ceremony and laid a Wreath in REMEMBRANCE.

Visiting the WW1 Memorials gives one a good feeling that the Monuments, Cemeteries, and Ceremonies will continue to serve as REMINDERS of the SACRIFICES made by those who fought for our Country in WW1 and other Wars., just North of Lens. Another significant WW1 Canadian Battle is now recognized with a Memorial. As we have seen the challenge given to us by John McCrae is honored now, and from what I have seen I am confident will continue to be honoured in the future.

We Will Remember!

Allan Warrack thanked Chuck for a very interesting and timely presentation.

President David Winfield was the Free Lunch winner.



Vimy Ridge Memorial

President David Winfield welcomed 35 Gyros and 5 guests to the November 19th Luncheon Meeting held at the Faculty Club.

Past District Governor Gerry Glassford introduced our guest speaker **Eric Upton**. Eric was raised in Ontario, attended the University of Ottawa and played with their football club. The Edmonton Eskimos drafted him, and he came west in 1976. He was slotted into the offensive line and that became “his home”. Eric played for the Eskimos from 1976 to 1985 and participated in 5 consecutive Grey cup Championships in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982. No other CFL team has won five consecutive Grey Cup victories! It is appropriate that we honour the annual play for this ancient trophy with the attendance of Eric Upton who is currently on the staff of the U. of A. and operates as a fundraiser, a difficult challenge.

Details of the Grey Cup Championship years follows:

1978 Eskimos vs. Alouettes 20-13

1979 Eskimos vs. Alouettes 17-9

1980 Eskimos vs. Tiger Cats 48-10

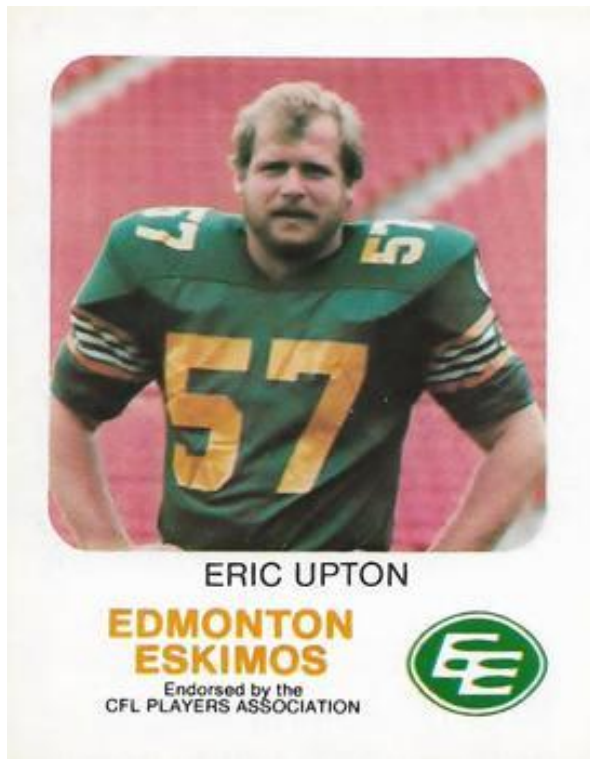
1981 Eskimos vs. Ottawa Rough Riders 26-23

1982 Eskimos vs. Argonauts 32-16

Eric will provide some of his personal insights in his career with the Edmonton Eskimos.

(Your Editor was out of the country and not able to record Eric's presentation)

The following is some additional information about Eric Upton's football career. He was a Vanier Cup Champion in 1975 and was pick No. 18 in Round 2 of the 1976 CFL Draft. At this stage of his career, he weighed 245 lbs and stood 6' 3". Upton was designated a CFL West All-Star in 1979.



Chuck Gerhart was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.

FIRST POSTING

Martin Marshall has applied for membership in our club. Martin lives at **#207, 10915-21 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6J 6X2**. His cell phone number is **587-588-6267** and email address is [**golfsaveslives@yahoo.ca**](mailto:golfsaveslives@yahoo.ca) Martin is a **Paramedic Educator** with Professional Medical Associates. **Ron Trant** and **Ari Hoeksema** propose him.

John and Marion Boyd were recipients of a National Philanthropy Award on November 21st at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

Marion and John Boyd

Nominated by:

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

Marion and John have been long-time subscribers and donors of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Francis Winspear Centre for Music. The time, passion and advocacy that they contribute to the organization is invaluable. Their leadership not only inspires others but makes a significant impact on the programs of these organizations. Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Francis Winspear Centre for Music are extremely grateful and very pleased to celebrate Marion and John through this nomination. They also help numerous non-profits in our community and are long standing arts and music supporters in Edmonton.



Congratulations Marion and John!



John Mann

Brigette

John Mann was married to **Brigette** in Lethbridge on November 23rd.

Congratulations John and Brigette!

“Fast Fred”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Edmonton Convention Centre, December 3rd.

Team Leaders: Jack Little and John Mann

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, December 17th

Speaker: Jim Lochhead

Topic: “Christmas Message”

Team Leaders: Jim Lochhead and Tony Mazzuca

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, January 7th, 2020

Speaker: Alan Bolstad

Topic: EFCL 100th Anniversary Project

Team Leaders: David Winfield and Fred Schulte

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, January 21, 2020

Speaker: Staff Sgt. Tom Bechthold

Topic: Edmonton Police Service, Flight Operations-Air One

Team Leaders: Bob Kerrison and Fred Schulte

District VIII Convention May 28-31, 2020 Medicine Hat, AB

Hosted by the Stampede City Gyro Club

Book Your Room Now!



Booking Information

- *Call 1 800 661 8095*
- *Reservations – Press 1*
- *Ask for **Gyro Convention***
- *Rate: \$124(plus tax) per night (includes breakfast)*
- *Room Choices:*
 - ✓ *2 Queen Beds. overlooking pool*
 - ✓ *1King Bed & Pullout Couch.*
- *Cancellation Policy:*
 - ✓ *48 hrs. notice*

Website: medhatlodge.com

Address: 1051 Ross Glen

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