



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President

Bill Taylor
780 430-0330

OCTOBER 2010

1stVice-President

Ari Hoeksema
780 421-7776

Those celebrating their birthdays in October are **Gordon Robertson** on the 2nd, **Roger Russell** on the 5th and **Mike Matei** on the 28th.

Past President

Leon Lubin
780 454-9712

The October wedding anniversaries are **Marty and Shirley Larson**, 50 years on the 8th and **Gerry and Alice Glassford**, 53 years on the 12th.

Secretary

Barry Walker
780 475-0983

The **2010 Annual Men's Bocce Night** was held with our friends from the **St. Albert Gyro Club** on Tuesday evening, October 5th at the Italian Cultural Centre. Those attending from the St. Albert club included **Larry Duchesne, Gerald Dwyer, Eric Haak, David Jones, and Al MacKenzie**. Those from the Edmonton Club included **Gary Campbell, Jack Ellis, Cliff French, Chuck Gerhart, Gerry Glassford, Jack Little, Leon Lubin, John Mann, Michael Mant, Mike Matei, Dick Nichols, Val Pohl, Ron Ramsey, Cliff Revell, John Ross, Fred Schulte, Jack Slobodan, Len Stevens and Bill Taylor**. Also included were **Doug Clayton and Dave Geddes**, guests of Mike Matei.

Treasurer

Mike Matei
780 930-1780

The group enjoyed a slow roast baron of beef along with caesar salad, Italian style roast potatoes, California style vegetables, rolls and butter and apple pie.

Directors

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

The attendees organized into teams of three, each played a minimum of two games with the hope of advancing to the finals and a chance to win the Gordon Rennie Trophy.

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
780 434-092

Thanks to **Mike Matei** and **John Ross** for organizing this event.



Winners of the Gordon Rennie Bocce Tournament Trophy 2010

Ron Ramsey

Cliff Revell

Al MacKenzie

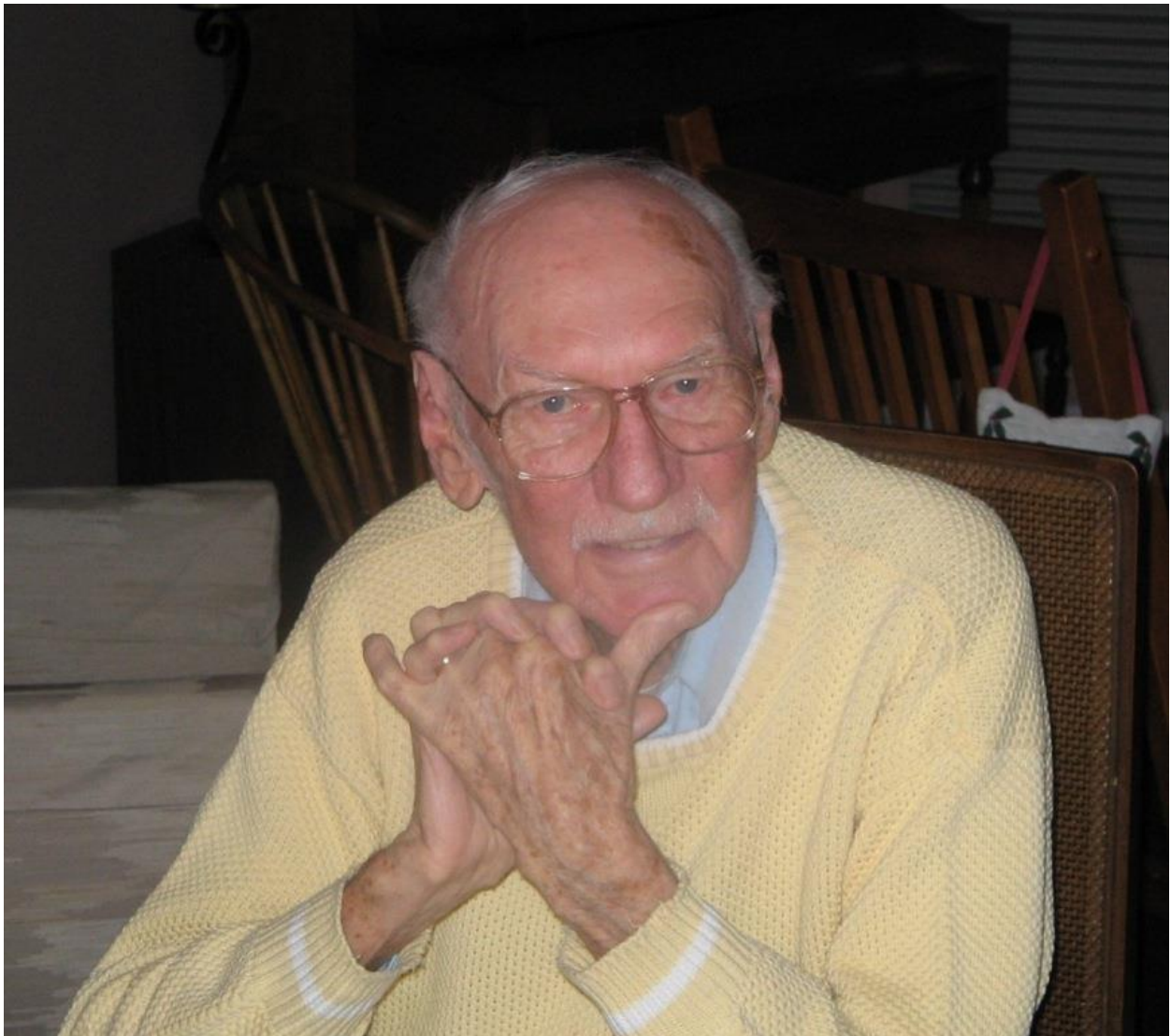
It is with regret and fondness that we acknowledge the passing of **Gordon Herbert Rennie** on October 18, 2010 at the age of 98. Gordon was a member of the Gyro Club of Edmonton for 60 years and was known to hundreds of his friends a "Mr. Gyro". "Gord" as he was known by many of his friends was invited by **Harold Wright** to attend a meeting of the Edmonton Gyro Club in 1950 where he met **Russ Carter** and **Stew Graham**, two well-known Edmonton Gyro's.

Gord became so immersed in Gyro that he became **Club President** in 1960-61 and **District Governor** in 1965-66. He epitomized the Gyro belief of friendship without qualifications; he was interested in everyone, was non-judgmental, open, outgoing and sincere. Gord was also District VIII **Secretary-Treasurer** and **Editor** of the club bulletin, the **Gyrolog** for many years. Gordon was given the **Award of Merit** (Gyro's highest recognition) in 1969, presented with the **Honour Key Award** in 1985 and honoured with the the first ever **Bud Mitchell Award** as International Gyro of the Year in 1991.

Gordon was born in Croydon, England on April 24, 1912; his biological father went down with the RMS Titanic on its maiden voyage to North America on April 15th. His mother re-married and Gordon moved with his family to Canada in 1921 travelling by ship and train to Edmonton where he was raised with his two brothers and three sisters. Work was difficult to find and the young family had to move often to find low rental accommodation. In the course of his grade school education, Gordon attended five different schools. It was at McCauley Public School that Gordon met a sweet, beautiful young lass named **Ivy**. They journeyed through school together and fell deeply in love. Gordon's family continued to struggle with finances and Gord left school to "help out" and entered the working world with Wilson Stationery. Ivy, too, joined the workforce with T. Eaton company, a family operated chain of department stores. Gordon worked his way up the "ladder" with Wilson Stationery and then moved on to Clark Brothers Wholesale Paper Co. and then to Barber Ellis Paper Company.

The Canadian Forces needed young men and Gordon joined the 92nd Battery Canadian Artillery on September 20th, 1940, married Ivy on March 15, 1941 and embarked for England in the fall of that year leaving behind a young pregnant wife. Their daughter **Jean**, was not to see her father until late 1945. Gord returned to Edmonton with a whole new future ahead of him and he had to decide what to do with it. He met a war-time friend who suggested that he consider a career with the Department of Veteran Affairs. Gordon went off to the appropriate office and started work helping thousands of returning veterans to find work, land, medical care and educational opportunities. Gordon quickly settled into his new family life in Edmonton and Ivy soon gave birth to two sons Sandy and Bob, who joined Jean in the task of filling the Rennie life with family activities and pleasure. He remained with Veteran Affairs until 1973 when he retired.

Gordon was predeceased by his wife Ivy, and his youngest son, Bob. Left to remember him are daughter Jean Warrack and husband Allan, son Sandy and wife Christine, brother Alex and sisters Pat Munro, Peggy Turvey and Nancy Edge (John), grandchildren Lauren (Kenn), Jim (Melissa), Dan, Hamish and Blythe, and great-grandchildren Gordon, Rebecca and Jan.



**Gordon Rennie "Mr. GYRO"
1912-2010**

President Bill Taylor welcomed 66 Gyro's from the Sherwood Park, Crossroads and Edmonton Gyro clubs to the **Annual Founder's Night** celebration held at the German Canadian Cultural Association facilities on Wednesday evening, October 20th. **Larry Dobson** led the group in the singing of *Cheerio* and **Jim Lochhead** presented the *Grace*. **Marty Larson** paid tribute to **Gordon Rennie** who passed away on October 18th. Gord was a member of the Edmonton Gyro club for 60 years and was an honorary member of both the Sherwood Park and Crossroads clubs.

John Ross of the Gyro Club of Edmonton and President of the club in 1992-93 presented some "Thoughts about Friendship" The first Gyro Club was formed in Cleveland, Ohio in 1912 by three university buddies, **Paul Schwan**, **Gus Handerson** and **Ed Kagy**. However the Cleveland Gyro Club was not incorporated until October 21st, 1914; hence the reason why Founders night is held during the third week of October each year.

Paul Schwann is remembered as the instigator of the first Gyro club in 1912, later joined the U.S. Army in April of 1918 and within 17 days contracted influenza and died at the age of 28. **Gus Handerson** was known as the cheerleader, who had the push, pep and drive to get the club going and later was responsible for the first club bulletin. Gus died at the age of 59. **Ed Kagy**, known as the "Grey Eagle" was the "stalwart" and for eleven years attended meetings of the Cleveland Gyro Club before taking on the responsibilities of the first Gyro International Secretary-Treasurer. Gordon Rennie and Ed Kagy met at a number of District and International Conventions, including the District Convention held in Edmonton in 1956. Ed died in 1961 at the age of 71.

John Ross indicated that those individuals who have had a focus on friends are more likely to live a long life. In fact a research study of 1500, 70 year old seniors over a ten year period found that those who had well developed friendships, lived on the average 20% longer.

This presentation was followed by a **Founders Night Quiz**. Each table of Gyro's was asked to provide the answers to 15 questions relating to the founding of Gyro. The questions and answers follow:

1. Name the three founders of GYRO. **Paul Schwann, Gus Handerson and Ed Kagy.**
2. Which of the three founders, when considering new directions for GYRO always posed the question, "Is it best for GYRO"? **Ed Kagy**

3. Which founder was known by the nickname "Gus"? **Clarence Handerson**
4. Of the three founders, who was considered to be the true instigator of GYRO and always voiced his convictions on friendship? **Paul Schwan**
5. Gyro was organized on June 24th, 1912. Why is Founders Night held in October? **The Cleveland Club was incorporated on October 21, 1914**
6. What 2 "F" words are frequently used at GYRO meetings? **Fun and Friendship**
7. How did the club come to be named GYRO? **Jimmy Hubbell coined the name based on the word "gyroscope" which allows an object to maintain its original course, no matter what happens around it.**
8. In what direction does the axle of the GYRO symbol point? **NNE**
9. What is considered to be a key element in the success of GYRO? **The introduction of interesting and capable speakers.**
10. Besides friendship, what other aspect was emphasized in the early days? **Promotion of business**
11. In what year was the Edmonton Club admitted to Gyro? **July 29, 1921**
12. In 1975, who was the first winner of the Jimmy Hubbell Award? **Howard Wilson of the Edmonton Club.**
13. Which Gyro Club spawned two premiers of British Columbia? **Kelowna**
14. When and where is the 100th Anniversary Convention of GYRO? **Cincinnati**
15. Who was winner of the GYRO of the Year Award in 1991? **Gordon Rennie**

Marty Larson provided an interesting comment on founders at Table #4. We are all founders because we were asked to join GYRO by a friend and then continued the tradition ourselves. As the club membership evolves overtime, we as individuals become the more senior members and play the role of founders to our newest members.

Mike Matei was the winner of \$150 in the 50/50 draw.

Thanks to **Bruce Foy, Dick Moskalyk** and **Leon Lubin** for organizing this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 2nd

Speaker: Bob "Dizzy" Dissler, recent 2nd place winner at World Clown Association Meet and knows the real "Patch Adams".

Contact: "Dutch" Hoeksema

GYRO District VIII-2010 CURLARAMA, November 5-7

Host Club: Stampede City Gyro

Location: Banff, Alberta

Accommodation: Voyager Inn, 555 Banff Ave.

Price: \$225 per curler, \$160 non curler

Deadline for entries: November 1st.

Contacts: Paul Stout pbstout@telus.net

Dale Green dale@dalegreen.com

Gyrette Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 9th

Time: 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Cost: \$25

Speakers: Karen Smith and Dr. Christine Mhina of the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton.

Topics: Information on the Centre and a look at barriers that keep minority and marginalized groups from accessing the services of the Centre.

Contact: Carol Dobson

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, November 16th

Speaker: Patricia Ordynec of the A.L.S. Society

Contact: Jim Lochhead

Gyro/Gyrette Christmas Party, River View Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday Evening, December 7th

6:00 pm: Champagne and socializing

6:30 pm: Carved Roast Turkey Dinner

Cost: \$58 per person without wine, \$68 with wine

Contacts: Fred Schulte, Leon Lubin and Larry Dobson