



THE GYROLOG

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

President-*Peter Carter*, **Past President-***Jack Little*,
1st Vice-President-*Ray Dallaire*, **2nd Vice-President-***Bruce Swanson*
Secretary-*Barry Walker*, **Treasurer-***Gary Campbell*,
Directors-*Alan Rusler, Arv Hardin, David Winfield*
Database Administrator-*John Ross*, **Gyrolog Editor-***Fred Schulte*

NOVEMBER 2016

Marty Larson celebrated his birthday on the 14th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **John and Helen Ross**, 53 years on the 2nd; **Jack and Terri Ellis**, 50 years on the 19th; **Jim and Gayl Lepp**, 58 years on the 22nd; **Arv and Berni Hardin**, 51 years on the 23rd and **Dick and Marilyn Nichols**, 51 years on the 23rd.



IT'S ANOTHER "THANK YOU" CARD FROM THE
AUTO BODY REPAIR SHOP

President Peter Carter welcomed 33 Gyros, two guests and our guest speaker to the November 1st luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Patrick LaForge was born November 19, 1952 in Lac La Biche and raised in Edmonton. LaForge is a distant cousin of Pierre Boivin, former President of the Montreal Canadiens. LaForge attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and received an Applied Arts Diploma in 1974. He received an Ivey Business School certificate from Western University in Ontario in 1985 and a University of Michigan-Stephen M. Ross School of Business certificate in 1991.

Patrick began a **17-year career with Molson Canada** in 1979 as a sales representative and progressed through a range of management positions including District Sales Manager, Business Development Manager, Regional Sales Manager, VP Sales and VP Marketing International. He then assumed the position of President and CEO of Alpine Canada Alpin from 1996-1999. Patrick then became the Director Marketing Communications for Canadian Pacific Railway in 1999.

In **July 2000**, LaForge was appointed **President and CEO of the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club**. One of his most broadly known achievements was his role in producing the inaugural regular season NHL game played outdoors, called the **Heritage Classic**. The game highlighted the **Edmonton Oilers** and **Montreal Canadiens** playing in front of 57,167 fans at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton during the winter of 2003. The Heritage Classic paved the way to an annual outdoor hockey game in the NHL, attracting fans worldwide.

On July 2, 2008, the Oilers were purchased by **Daryl Katz**. Today, working from one of the smallest markets in the League, the Oilers are one of the most financially successful Clubs in the NHL and rated as a Top 10 sports club in the world by *Money Magazine*. On April 24, 2015 Patrick stepped down as President & Chief Operating Officer of Oilers Entertainment Group.

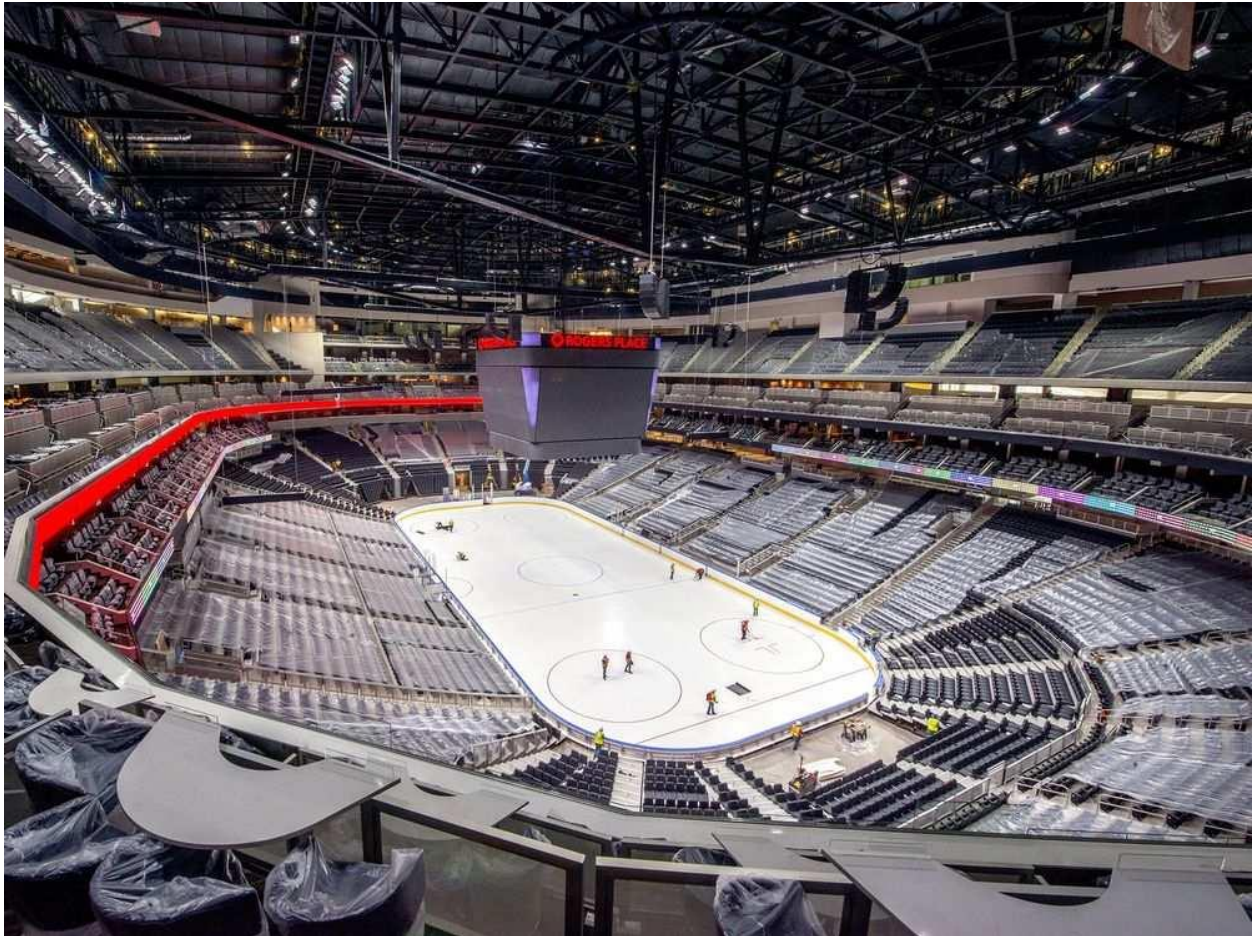
Patrick provided insight into the negotiations between the City of Edmonton and the Katz Group regarding the new arena. In the beginning, there was considerable misunderstanding and controversy regarding the costs, benefits, and the scope of the project.

An agreement was signed between the City of Edmonton and the Katz Group on January 23, 2013 and the project was completely funded on February 11, 2014. Construction of the arena was started in March 2014 and the new Rogers Place Arena was officially opened on September 8, 2016.

Communication technology is an integral component of Rogers Place. For example, in the Northlands Coliseum there were only 12 Wi-Fi antennas, in Rogers place, there are 850 which are in the handrails. The higher seats in the arena are more steeply inclined to give spectators a closer view of center ice.

There were many questions fielded by Mr. LaForge from an enthusiastic audience.

Thanks to **Tony Mazzuca** and **Dan Hasinoff** for arranging this speaking event.



Rogers Place Edmonton

OWEN CORNISH

It is with regret that we acknowledge the passing of **Owen Wilson Cornish** at the age of 94 on Remembrance Day at the Kipnes Veterans Centre in Edmonton.

He was born on September 7, 1922 and raised in Preeceville, Saskatchewan to a disabled WWI veteran Charles and Emily Cornish (nee Reid). Owen was the eldest of four children which included sisters Margaret and Millie as well as brother Charles. Upon turning eighteen he entered the British Commonwealth Air Training Program. From there he progressed from pilot to flying instructor to bomber pilot in 4 Group, Bomber Command, 77 Squadron, flying the Halifax completing 22 missions over Germany.

Post-war aptitude testing revealed a good manual dexterity and it was suggested he consider dentistry as a career. After a move to Edmonton and marriage to the love of his life, **Shirley Mae Maynes**, dental school followed. He continued to fly B 25s with 418 Squadron on weekends. Owen eventually became CO and Wing Commander on January 31 of 1959. His dental practice began in 1954 and continued until 1990. He and Shirley enjoyed a rich social life with many friends from Air Force, Church choir, Bridge Club, curling and the lake. Owen did missionary dental trips to the Caribbean island of Dominica as well as providing dental care in remote northern communities. After losing Shirley to cancer in 1991 he suspended his practice and began flying gliders, which he did until age 80. His garden at Lac La Biche was a sanctuary as he loved the solitude of the lake. He remained vigorous until the age of ninety, arthritis eventually limiting his activities. His puzzles and reading allowed him to be sharp until the end.

Four children and an adopted daughter survive him, as well as six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Owen was sponsored by **Merrill Morstad** and joined the Edmonton Gyro Club in 1992. He and his long-term companion, **Betty Rawlinson** attended many Gyro/Gyrette functions. Owen remained a member for 17 years until he was unable to comfortably attend our luncheon meetings.

It was a pleasure to have known Owen and your Editor had the privilege of being part of the curling team which included skip **Mike Matei, Owen** and **John Ross** when we won the **"A" Trophy at the Gyro Curl-A-Rama** held in Banff in November 2001.



Owen Cornish

President Peter Carter welcomed 33 Gyros and our guest speaker to the November 15th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Stephanie Perilli joined the **Valley Zoo Development Society (VZDS)** as the **Director of Fund Development** in April 2015. She is an experienced fundraising professional with over eight years in the field. Prior to her time with the VZDS, she worked with the YWCA of Edmonton for two years and the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation for a four-year tenure. In these roles, Stephanie managed all aspects of community-based fundraising and she is honoured to have played a key role in developing some of Edmonton's most prestigious and successful annual fundraisers, including the YWCA Rose Campaign Fundraising Breakfast and the Stollery Family Day Hockey Classic.

Another charitable initiative that Stephanie commits her time to is the Canadian Blood Services (CBS). She was recruited in 2005 by the CBS to join the Alberta Regional Liaison Committee and was elected as co-chair by her peers in 2013.

She currently represents Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories on the CBS's National Liaison Committee in Ottawa.

Stephanie indicated that the Edmonton Valley Zoo is both a physical space and a profound experience. It's designed for intimacy, exploration, and discovery. It

may seem contradictory, but zoos are incredibly important in the fight to preserve wildlife and their wild spaces on our planet.

In these times, zoos, and the precious DNA they protect, are much more than recreation or entertainment. They are a sanctuary for the endangered, a teaching tool, an advocate for the voiceless and a life raft for the creatures we share the planet with.

[The Storyland Valley Zoo was leading edge in 1959. Times have changed!](#)

Today, the Edmonton Valley Zoo has gone from a 5-acre petting zoo featuring storybook characters to a 21st century centre of learning, research, and conservation. In **1984**, the Valley Zoo Master Plan began laying the groundwork for the zoo's expansion and transformation, including the Elephant House, the Saito Centre, and the Makira Outpost.

By the early **2000's**, the Zoo embarked on an ambitious plan to completely re-imagine its role, both as a member of the zoological community and as an integral part of Edmonton's cultural landscape. The evolution of the zoo continued with the opening of 'Arctic Shores' in **2012**. In **2014**, the new state-of-the-art Education Centre, Entry Plaza, and interpretative path, "The Wander", were completed. Our guests are enjoying the journey. Since 2010, attendance has jumped 80% and numbers continue to grow, with a record-breaking number of just over 400,000 guests in **2015**.

In the next phase, the original footprint of the Storyland Valley Zoo will be revitalized and transformed into an interactive space featuring animal experiences in their most natural setting.

The winner of the Free Lunch draw was **Warren Garbutt**.

Thanks to **Warren Garbutt** and **John Mann** for organizing this speaking event.

Bruce Foy, a 19-year member of the Edmonton Gyro Club was born in Kincaid, Saskatchewan in August 1936 and was raised on a farm southwest of Meyronne. He was the youngest of the family of Charles and Georgina Foy which included brother Jim and sister Ruth. His mother was born in Michigan and his father was from Chatham, Ontario and worked as a logger, a barber, and a farmer before moving to operate a farm in southern Saskatchewan.

Bruce attended a two-room public school in Meyronne from grades one to twelve. The school had three rooms but was down to two due to a lack of students; Bruce was one of only three in his class. Since he did not have enough credits for university entrance, Bruce enrolled in a senior matriculation program at Regina College and then took first year engineering the next year. The remaining three years of **civil engineering** were completed at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Charles Foy died when Bruce was 16 and he took over the farming on a section and a quarter of land for the next five years while attending grade school and university.

Upon university graduation, Bruce began working for Canada Mines and Technical Surveys establishing mapping control for the first order **Geodetic Surveys**. The Geodetic Survey of Canada was established by Order-in-Council on April 20th, 1909. These geodetic surveys established reference points using latitude and longitude and were marked with permanent survey monuments. Bruce's work took him to Northern Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, the Northwest Territories (NWT) and the Arctic Islands. The subsequent development of topographic surveys and the GPS was based on the geodetic system.

Bruce had roomed with John McClement at Regina College and the University of Saskatchewan and he met John's sister **Margaret McClement** who was enrolled in the Public Health Diploma Nursing Program. Margaret was born in Langbank, Saskatchewan and her father was born in Canada and mother in Scotland.

Bruce and Margaret were married in 1960 and moved to Ottawa. Their son, Jonathon was born in 1963. In 1965, the Foy's moved to Vancouver where Bruce took on the position of resident engineer with Transport Canada at the **Vancouver Airport**. This was the beginning of a major expansion of the Vancouver site to accommodate increased jet aircraft traffic. Daughter Jennifer was born in 1965.

In 1972, Bruce was transferred to **Winnipeg** with Transport Canada and was responsible for airport construction work in Western Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the middle of the NWT between Gjoa Haven and Baffin Island. It was during this period that many of the airports in the Arctic were built or improved.

In 1977, he became **Director of Construction** with Transport Canada for the Western Region. The completely new Calgary Airport was finished in 1977 and Bruce was directly involved in the ongoing warranty work and associated issues resolution. Many of the smaller airports were enlarged during the next 10 years' time and included Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Whitehorse,

Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Ft. McMurray. In 1985, Transport Canada entered long-term leases for the major airports with local airport authorities.

In 1988, Bruce moved to **Public Works Canada** and was responsible for construction of many new federal buildings such as RCMP detachments, Agriculture laboratories, federal penitentiaries, and the Virology Lab in Winnipeg. In 1995, he retired after 39 years with federal agencies. He saw the evolution of measurement calculations using slide rules and log tables to primitive computers and today's sophisticated GPS-based electronic measurement systems.

Bruce was introduced to **Gyro** by **Roger Russell** and joined the Edmonton Club in 1997 and served as President in 2000-2001.

Bruce played hockey and curled when he was in grade school and university and in later years took on golf, and skiing with the Alberta Seniors Ski Club.

The Foy family now includes Jonathon and Sandra Foy and Jennifer Foy and Darren Reid. Marg and Bruce have been avid supporters of Gyro and celebrated their **56th Wedding Anniversary on September 24th**.



Photo Bruce Swanson

Dick Nichols reports on the results on the Hockey Pool

Game 1 Nov. 6 Winners First Period Second Final

Oilers vs. Red Wings

First	1	1	Gary Campbell	Walter Yakimets	Walter Yakimets
Second	2	1	Jack Heibert	Brian Scranton	Brian Scranton
Final	2	1	Sharon Shaw	Marlene Burnett	Marlene Burnett

Game 2 Nov. 13 Winners First Period Second Final

Oilers vs. Rangers

First	1	2	Terrie Ellis	Leon Lubin	Leon Lubin
Second	1	3	Mort Morter	Chuck Gerhart	Chuck Gerhart
Final	1	3	Bill Taylor	Bill Taylor	Bill Taylor

Game 3 Nov. 21 Winners First Period Second Final

Oilers vs. Blackhawks

First	2	0	Morgan Lochhead	Jennifer Foy	Cliff Revell
Second	3	0	Mike Matei	Jeff Baird	Lara Snihurowych
Final	5	0	Bruce Foy	John Williams	Bill Taylor

Game 4 Nov. 29 Winners First Period Second Final

Oilers vs. Leafs

First	0	1	Sheldon Weatherby	Marilyn Nichols	Rebecca Warrack
Second	1	4	Jean Morter	Paulette Schulte	Erin Lucas
Final	2	4	Mike Long	Erica Herchen	Unsold

“Fast Fred”

UPCOMING EVENTS

GYRO/GYRETTE Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Shaw Conference Centre, Tuesday, December 6th

Champagne and socializing: 5:45, Dinner 6:45

Menu: Carved whole turkey at your table.

Cost: \$70 without wine and \$80 with wine.

Guests welcome!

Contacts: Bruce Foy, Sam Gruden, and Peter Carter

GYRETTE Christmas Celebration, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, December 13th

Time: Registration 11:30, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: Kathy Jessup, Writer/Storyteller

Topic: The Fascinating Art of Story Telling