



# THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

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## THANKSGIVING IN GYRO/GYRETTE CANADA

Sixty-two Gyros and Gyrettes gathered at the Santa Maria Goretti Community Centre for a Thanksgiving Luncheon, good friendship and to share a Thanksgiving message prepared especially for the occasion by **Reverend John Dowds**.

**President Walter** extended a very warm welcome to Gyrettes, Gyros and their special guests that included **Joe and Judy Bacac, Bob and Mary Lue Moore** [Mary Lue is, of course, a regular Gyrette] (guests of **Peter and Margaret Butler**), **Bruce** and Gayle Houston (guests of **Elaine and Allan Douglas**); and **Irene Watson** (**Helen Ross's** mother and a frequent welcome guest at Gyro/Gyrette functions). A special Thanksgiving welcome was extended to Gyrettes **Doris Douglas, Enid Green, Bernice Pedden, Norma Treacy, and Pat Sharp**. The presence of these special people together with the Gyros and other Gyrettes of the Club added to the spirit of Thanksgiving.

After the singing of Cheerio (lead by **John Plunkett**) and our Grace (ably provided by **Rev. John Dowds**) **President Walter** invited **John Stroppa** to the podium to conduct the Thanksgiving celebration. **John** shared with us a brief reminder of our Thanksgiving legacy and noted that its history is "stuffed with surprises". For instance, "Did we know . . ." that the FIRST Thanksgiving was celebrate 43 before the pilgrims did so at Plymouth Rock?" It seems that in 1576 Sir Martin Frobisher (remember when Iqualuit was Frobisher Bay?) got sidetracked during his search for the Spice Islands and ended up on Baffin Island (seems his sextant had a calibration error). There was "celebrated" the first North American Thanksgiving ". . . in sub-zero temperatures on a barren, wind-swept moonscape by a muttering, mutinous crowd wondering whether 'the chief' had all his marbles." In sleuthing the history of our Thanksgiving **John** uncovered one other tidbit (not yet called a Timbit it would seem) about the ever-optimistic Frobisher. It seems that while searching for the spice Islands in the Canadian arctic he came upon some promising "gold ore". After two years of mining he hauled a shipload of ore back to England. It assayed as iron pyrite – better known as "Fool's Gold". Hence forth the region

became known as “North West Territories – our Frozen Assets”.

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Fast forward to 1879!! Our Parliament formally designated November 6<sup>th</sup> as Canada’s Thanksgiving Day. And so it remained until Armistice Day was established as November 11<sup>th</sup>. Two holidays so close together and so thematically different did not seem quite right. In one of the wiser decisions by our elected representatives the second Monday in October became “our new Thanksgiving tradition”.

After his most interesting opening comments on our Thanksgiving tradition, **John Stroppa** introduced our **Reverend John Dowds** as our speaker on this very special occasion. To our surprise, **Reverend Dowds** promptly called upon **Peter Fairbridge** to read a lengthy excerpt from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Chapter 16 Verses 1 to 23). Surprise turned to puzzlement as Peter’s reading revealed a lengthy listing of the names of people whom Paul was urging that the Romans “greet”. These were among Paul’s good friends who had come into Christ’s family.

Building upon this reading **John** led us to the heart of his thanksgiving message which was that Paul was sharing a list of dedicated followers of the teachings of Christ; a list of friends; of those with whom Paul had studied; and of those “who had risked their necks” for his life. It was a list of those upon whom the Romans could depend and of people who had made a difference in Paul’s life as well as in the development of the ministry of Christ Jesus. It was a catalogue of people to whom Paul was thankful for many positive changes in his ministry and therefore of those upon whom the Romans could count for encouragement and steadfastness in quest to “the god and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

**John** reminded us that as we go through life it would not be our lists of things material, of things tangible, which will be of the greatest importance. It will be our list of those who have made significant differences in determining who we are, what we value and what we believe. Although not like Paul’s – a powerful list of those who helped to establish Christianity- it will serve to identify those who have helped us along our road of life and to whom we are thankful. “Put the list away with your greatest treasures!” urged **John** who closed with this “thanksgiving” thought: “I thank you God for all my remembrances of you.”

**Gerry Glassford** extended the thanks of the Gyros and Gyrettes present for John’s thoughtful and thought-provoking

message of “thanksgiving”.

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### **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays will be celebrated this month by **Gordon Rennie** (October 2<sup>nd</sup>), **Roger Russell** (October 5<sup>th</sup>), and **Mike Matei** (October 28<sup>th</sup>). May you all enjoy a very happy birthday, gentlemen.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

October wedding anniversaries will be celebrated by **Marty** and **Shirley Larson** (45<sup>th</sup>) and **Gerry** and **Alice Glassford** (48<sup>th</sup>). May you share many, many more happy years together!!

### **HEALTH OF THE CLUB**

We are thankful that **Gordon Rennie** was with us on this special occasion. **Gordon** is recovering from a back injury he sustained when the car he was riding in with our good friends **Bette** and **Al McClure** was rear-ended. Glad to see you on this special day, **Gordon**.

**Mort Morter** is also doing well after medical treatment and was a welcome member of our Thanksgiving lunch gathering. Sadly our good friend, **Eleanor Robertson**, is in the U of A Hospital. **Gordon** has told us that she will remain there until a bed is available in an extended care facility. If the opportunity presents itself, do stop in to see her.

Both **Marty Larson** and **David McNaughton** were unable to join us for Thanksgiving Lunch. They were undergoing “minor” procedures at the hospital at this time and we all extend our best wishes to them for a full recovery.

Gyro **Allan Ireland** of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club has recently had knee replacement surgery and is now participating in a rehabilitation program.

**John Halford** (aged 92), a Past President of our Gyro Club, passed away September 30<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

**Margaret Ogilvie** (widow of former Gyro, Dick Ogilvie) has just returned from a tour of eastern Canada – several days earlier than planned unfortunately. **Margaret** had a nasty fall and fractured an ankle. She has limited mobility just now so do give her a call to say hello and wish her a speedy recovery (432-0912).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Gyro Founders Night: **Dick Nichols** and **Victor Jagoldas** have organized an excellent Founders Night event for us. It will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club (6:30 PM Reception with sparkling wine and 7:00 PM Dinner. Dress is Jacket and Tie or Tuxedo. The cost is \$60.00 per person with wine and \$50.00 per person w/o wine. Please contact **Dick** or **Victor** if you plan to attend and have not already indicated your plans to these fellow Gyros. **Marty Larson** will speak on the importance of the founding philosophy of Gyros and a second presentation will be delivered by a former Edmonton Eskimo, **Leigh MacMillan** and his wife, **Aline**. Their presentation will be entitled "Life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." As Canadians who have lived in this "closed society" **Leigh** and **Aline** are in a particularly advantageous position to provide us with interesting insights to life, culture, arts and history of this country.

**John Ross** reminds us to star November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is another in a series of Gyro/Gyrette friendship functions and is a celebration of "The Year of the Veteran". We will be honouring the following Club members who served Canada during times of conflicts: **Gordon Rennie, Bryce Van Dusen, Ernie Siegel, Owen Cornish, Harry Nash, and Peter Fairbridge**. This special luncheon will be held at "The Hanger on Kingsway", our Alberta Aviation Museum (11410 Kingsway Avenue). Please plan to arrive by 12:00 noon, or earlier, if you would like to tour the museum prior to lunch. **John** has arranged for a live band, which will play favourite tunes from the WWII era. Lunch will be served in the Mess beginning about 12:30 PM. Following lunch we will be provided another opportunity to tour the museum and, on departing, each of us will receive a copy of the CD :Salute – a Tribute to the Canadian Veterans". Cost? \$20.00 per person (all inclusive). Be certain to contact **John Ross, Ernie Siegel** or **Owen Cornish** if you plan to attend and have not already done notified one of these event organizers. Those who wish to attend and will not be seeing one of the organizers, please mail your cheque, payable to the Gyro Club of Edmonton, to **Ernie Siegel**, 2B – 10050 – 118<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmonton, AB T5K 2M8.

**Doris Douglas** reminded us that the next Gyrette meeting will be held on October 11 at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. Cocktails will be at 6:00 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$18.00. The speaker will be Joan Haynes who will provide information on the Ronald MacDonald House.

## **POSTINGS**

First Posting: Dick Moskalyk and his wife, Vi, live at 11420 – 37A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6J 0K3. Phone: 435-6922. e-Mail: [rmoskalyk@shaw.ca](mailto:rmoskalyk@shaw.ca)

Dick is a Professor Emeritus and the retired Dean of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta. He enjoys golf, travel, winemaking and many other social activities. President Walter Yakimets proposes Dick for membership in our Club.

## **NEW GYRO CLUB**

**Marty Larsen** has recently learned that our organization will be adding a new Gyro Club in Powell, Ohio. This is the first new club we have added for several years. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

## **SOME INSIGHTS INTO LIFE AS A TEACHER**

After being interviewed by a local school administrator, a young teaching prospect had this to say:

“Let me see if I’ve got this right . . . . You want me to go into that room with all of those kids, and fill their every waking moment with a love for learning, and I’m suppose to instill a sense of pride in their ethnicity, modify their disruptive behaviour, observe them for signs of abuse and even censor their T-shirt messages and dress habits.

You want me to wage a war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, check their backpacks for weapons of mass destruction, and raise their self-esteem.

You want me to teach them patriotism, good citizenship, sportsmanship, fair play, how to register to vote, how to balance a checkbook, and how to apply for a job.

I am to check their heads for lice, maintain a safe environment, recognize signs of anti-social behaviour, make sure all students pass our provincial examinations, even those who don’t come to school regularly or complete any of their assignments.

Plus I am to make sure that all of the students with handicaps get an equal education regardless of the extent of their mental or physical handicap.

I am to communicate regularly with the parents by letter, telephone, newsletter, e-mail, and report cards. All of this I am to do with just a piece of chalk, maybe a computer, a few books, a bulletin board, a big smile, AND on a salary that just barely disqualifies me from special funding for those below the poverty line!

You want me to do all of this and yet you expect me . . . NOT TO PRAY????”

**WARM THANKSGIVING  
WISHES TO EVERYONE!!!**