



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-Bruce Swanson, Past President-Ray Dallaire,  
1st Vice-President- David Winfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President-Chuck Gerhart  
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,  
Directors- Tracy DesLaurier, John Mann, Leon Lubin, Len Evenson  
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

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## **JULY 2018**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Jack Bowen** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, **John Mann** on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Ray Dallaire** on the 16<sup>th</sup> and **Leon Lubin** on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Jack** and **Myrna Slobodan**, 53 years on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; **Ken** and **Arden Korchinski**, 54 years on the 11<sup>th</sup>; **Barry** and **Valerie Walker**, 48 years on the 11<sup>th</sup>; **Jack** and **Joyce Brown**, 18 years on the 15<sup>th</sup>; **Len** and **Barbara Stevens**, 60 years on the 26<sup>th</sup> and **Taras** and **Pat Chmil**, 34 years on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



**President Bruce Swanson** welcomed 30 Gyros and one guest to the July 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf club. **Val Pohl** led the singing of Cherio and **Heinrich Grosskopf** presented the Grace.

**Treasurer Gary Campbell** presented financial information for the year ending April 30, 2018 which included Benevolence Fund Transactions, Assets, Liabilities and Members Equity.

**Gary Campbell** moved that the **Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2018** be approved. **Val Pohl** seconded the motion and the members gave their approval unanimously.

**Allan Warrack** introduced our guest speaker, **Brendan Robbins, General Manager of the Faculty Club, University of Alberta**. Brendan was born in Edmonton and his first job in High School and University was a bar man and waiter at the Faculty Club over a period of eight years. While Brendan was in University, the General Manager of the Faculty Club, Peter Graf encouraged Brendan to consider taking the Hospitality Program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary. The rest is history, Brendan graduated from SAIT and worked at Silver Springs in the Calgary area, the Derrick Club, the Royal Glenora and the Edmonton Country Club.

Brendan advised that the Faculty Club building opened on **Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1964**. Three Edmonton business men, **Francis Winspear, George Steer** and **Gerald Heffernan** donated \$80,000 towards the cost of construction. Winspear also arranged an unsecured loan of \$200,000 from the TD Bank.

There was still an important remaining problem of obtaining a liquor license for the Club. Again, it was Francis Winspear who appealed directly to the Premier of Alberta, Ernest C. Manning, who interceded with the Chairman of the Liquor Control Board. A license was issued less than two months before the Club opened. **In 1967, the cost of a 5 oz glass of white or red wine was 25 cents and Alberta beers were 40 cents.**

**Peter Graf**, Brendan's mentor was General Manager for 40 years from 1977-2017. By 2017, the Faculty Club was in the red and for the first time it had to charge for coffee. The U. of A. Faculty Club is one of the few left in Canada.

Since 2017, the Faculty Club has opened its membership to alumni, non-academic union members, the Alberta Law Society and APEGA. It has also developed a partnership with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Cooking School. It is hoped that NAIT cooking students will be able to practice their skills and work at the Faculty Club.

The focus of the Faculty Club is now on the community and there is a resurgence of interest in weddings of third generation university families. There will be 58 weddings held at the Faculty Club this summer.

**Fred Otto** thanked our speaker for an interesting presentation on the past present and future.

Two Free Lunches were awarded to **Heinrich Grosskopf** and **Bruce Swanson**.

Your editor discovered a document online entitled ***The Faculty Club of the University of Alberta: A Short History by Keith Smillie, September 2008.***

The University of Alberta which had been founded in 1908, moved from temporary accommodations to Athabasca Hall on University lands in 1911. There were 127 students that year of which 50 would be housed on campus. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1911 six faculty members gathered together with a view of forming a **Faculty Club**. They were Dr. W.A.R. Kerr, Professor of Modern Languages; Dr. E.K. Broadus, Professor of English; Mr. Muir Edwards, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Lecturer in Engineering; Dr. Parker Fairlie, Lecturer in Modern Languages; Dr. E.W. Sheldon, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; and Mr. Cecil Race, Registrar. By the end of the meeting, a Constitution and Bylaws had been drafted and they were adopted in September. *"The object of the Club shall be to*

*promote by the reading and discussion of original papers at regular meetings social and intellectual intercourse amongst its members".* In 1919, the name was changed to the **"Men's Faculty Club"**.

In the late 1950's there was some discussion of forming a **Women's Faculty Club**. However, in 1959 the Constitution of the Men's Faculty Club was amended to permit the inclusion of women making such an organization unnecessary.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of **Marilyn Nichols** on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Dick; daughter Janice (Randy) Molofy and children, Anders, Brock, and Samantha; son Cameron (Shauna) Nichols and children, Connor, and Brett.

A Memorial Service was held on July 5<sup>th</sup> at Park Memorial Chapel. Her friends and family spoke of Marilyn's love of camping and travelling to Florida and Maui with their friends. Dick knew Marilyn from school and pursued her at the curling rink. Marilyn attended Spruce Avenue School and then worked for Edmonton Telephones as an operator. Her initiative and hard work led to a position of management in Human Resources. When her children were born, she became a stay at home mom, but Marilyn still managed to curl in the afternoon.

Marilyn was committed to her family and taught Janice at an early age to stick up for herself. Janice became actively involved in synchronized skating. Her mother quickly became manager of the team and ultimately President of the Skating Club. She was famous for running a tight financial ship and was never too busy to help with skating events including championships. At the same time, she was able to crochet many articles of clothing. Marilyn loved to go on field trips which demonstrated her love of community. Her "little" brother Bob indicated that Marilyn loved to run the show and was always the boss.

Marilyn joined the **Jewel Rebekah Lodge No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Grand Lodge-Rebekah Assembly** at age 18 and was an active member for sixty years.

The Members of Jewel Rebekah Lodge #25 gathered around Sister Marilyn Nichols when she was presented with the Meritorious Jewel at the 105th Roll Call of Jewel #25 on June 17, 2017. Sister Marilyn was a 59-year member of Jewel and served as President of the Rebekah Assembly in 1992 – 1993. She was Chairman of the Odd Fellow Rebekah Visual Research Foundation for many years as well as Chairman of the UN Pilgrimage for Youth and Benevolent Committee.

Marilyn's family shared stories and their memories. She was famous for her chocolate cookies and loved Sprite and Eatmore bars. Marilyn was subtle about her love, and action was used more than words. She had a generous soul and held herself to a high standard. Marilyn demonstrated hope and optimism, a passion for life and a willingness and ability to take on anything. Her son Cameron described her as **Super Mom** and **Super Fan!**

Marilyn and Dick were introduced to the Gyro Fraternity by **John Ross** in 2000. Marilyn was an active member of the Gyrettes and looked after the financial side of the Hockey Pool with Dick for many years. She was an inspiration to all of us and will be missed!



*Marilyn Nichols*

February 13, 1940 – June 28, 2018

**A celebration of Brian Steilo's life** was held on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Millwoods Golf Course. Brian passed away on May 26<sup>th</sup> after living a fun-filled life of 71 years in Edmonton. He is survived by his partner Cathy Johnson, Sandi and Mike Steilo Cooper, Kati Steilo, Shannon and Mark Harwood, Coleen and Derek Homan, Char and Cam Helgren, Maggie and Patrick Johnson, Carol Steilo, and sister Marsha Wagner. He is also survived by his 10 beloved grandchildren Sam, Noah, Draxton, Maddy, Connor, Logan, Liv, Kingston, Miles, and Maddox.

Brian was famous for telling stories: **“Have you heard this before”** and **“I have one more for you”**

**Cathy Johnson** described her five-year journey with Brian. They travelled to Europe, the United States, and his beloved Maui. He loved family and celebrated their families in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Brian practiced jokes on his captive audiences while playing hockey, curling and golf. He was a competitive curler and a consummate gambler on the fairways.

His favourite times were Happy Hours with chicken wings and cigars. His laughter filled a room and when asked “What do you want in life?” He replied, **“I want to live life out loud”**

His friend and partner at A & B Denture Clinic, **Bob Wilson** said that Brian “crammed 100 years into 71” and that he “double booked life”. He was a veteran storyteller and always embellished them. He loved trips to Las Vegas for golf, gambling, and the Barrett-Jackson Car Auctions. Bob’s one-month trip to Portugal with Brian and Cathy was celebrated with Sangria and Sardines. Brian didn’t do fussy, he disliked potatoes and pizza.

Brian’s daughter **Sandi** described her father’s deep love for family and friends. He could make any small group feel like a party. Brian lived life for the moment; a perfect day meant lots of stops for shopping and meeting new people and enjoying new experiences. His two-year grandson **Sam** grew very close to Brian. Sam loved to tell stories and he was a “little Brian”.

**Carol Dobson** finished the tribute by reading a poem by Henry Scott-Holland entitled **“Death is Nothing at All”**

**Brian** and **Cathy** were introduced to the Gyro fraternity by **Larry** and **Carol Dobson** and joined the Edmonton Club in 2015. It is with regret that we didn’t have more friendship time with Brian.



# Brian Steilo

October 12, 1946 to May 26, 2018

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**President Bruce Swanson** welcomed **36 Gyros** and two guests to the July 17<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club.

Peter Carter led the singing of *Cheerio* and Bruce Swanson presented the Grace. Bob Kerrison introduced our two guests **Janet Riopel** and **Sheila Keenan** from the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

**Bob Kerrison** introduced our speaker, **Janet Riopel, President and CEO of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce**. Janet has deep roots in our community and considerable experience in managing complex, multi-stakeholder projects. She has worked in senior roles in the private, public, and not for profit sectors. Janet has devoted her volunteer time to the boards of many organizations. She is the current Board Chair of the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, was Board Chair of Compassion House Foundation, Campaign Chair for United Way of Alberta Capital Region, Board Chair of both MacEwan University and the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Urban Development Institute Alberta.

Janet indicated that she started her work with the Chamber in late 2014 in the face of the worst economic downturn and period of uncertainty in this generation. There are huge impacts from the stalled NAFTA negotiations; we need trade not tariffs. There are too many regulations, rules, and a huge paper burden. Commercial business taxes in the city of Edmonton have doubled, while in the same period, net value has only increased 11%. Investors are concerned about the messages they are receiving from government. Meanwhile in the United States there has been a drastic roll-back in taxes. We need to become more competitive! There has been a 6% drop of investment in 2017 and a 5% drop is forecast in 2018.

We need government policies to be a magnet for business and the costly regulatory system in Alberta needs to be fixed. **Are the difficult times behind us? The business community is still struggling.** Our economy is in a state of discovery and transformation.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce serves close to 2,225 companies representing over 100,000 employees. **Our Vision is to Advocate, Educate and Connect.** There are ten Chambers of Commerce in the Edmonton Region and we meet on a regular basis to develop consistent strategies. There are eight global communities in Canada that encompass 52% of our population and we also meet with them on an ongoing basis.

The City of Edmonton must work much harder to hold the line on commercial and residential taxes. Our Chamber has spearheaded a Municipal Budget Task Force to look at reversing the trend in increasing taxes. We must evolve and thrive or get left behind! Strong partnerships can improve outcomes and drive economic diversification.

Janet responded to a lot of questions about members experience with the City of Edmonton's lengthy development and building approval process.

**Ken Willan** thanked our speaker for an informative and relevant presentation.

**Bob Bahniuk** was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.



It is with regret that we acknowledge the resignation of **Cliff French** due to health reasons. Chuck Gerhart sponsored Cliff in 2010. Cliff served as a Director between 2012 and 2014 and was famous for his delicious jars of cookies passed out at the Royal Mayfair luncheons. We give **Cliff** and **Sharon** our best wishes.

**“Fast Fred”**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Mixed Event, Faculty Club, University of Alberta, August 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Speaker: Cam Battley**

**Topic: The Invention of a New Industry Around the World and the Science of Cannabinoid Use.**

**Team leaders: Sheldon Weatherby and Ron Ramsey**

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, University of Alberta, August 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Speaker: TBA**

**Team Leaders: Ari Hoeksema and Michael Mant**

**Barbeque and Bocce Tourney, The Derrick Golf and Winter Club, Mixed Event, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Bocce: 4pm, Dinner 6:00**

**Menu: BBQ Kabobs Buffet (Beef Tenderloin, Cajun Shrimp & Chicken Breast), Western Style Corn on the Cob and all the Trimmings.**

**Cost: \$58 per person, Cash Bar**

**Team Leaders: Fred Schulte, Leon Lubin, John Boyd, Bruce Foy, Bill Taylor**

**Joint Men’s Bocce Tourney-Edmonton/Sherwood Park Lead, Italian Seniors Centre, 91211-110 Ave. adjacent to Commonwealth Stadium. Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

