



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President

Leon Lubin
780 454-9712

December 2009

1stVice-President

Bill Taylor
780 430-0330

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2ndVice-President

Ari Hoeksema
780 421-7776

Past President

John Plunkett
780 435-7011

Those celebrating their birthdays in December are **Sam Gruden** and **John Plunkett** on the 1st, **Ron Ramsey** on the 3rd, **Tony Sheppard** on the 6th, **Larry Dobson** on the 16th, **Bill Taylor** on the 20th and **Chuck Gerhart** on the 24th.

Secretary

Barry Walker
780 475-0983

The December wedding anniversaries are **Bruce and Gayle Houston**, 27 years on the 4th and **Ari (Dutch) and Kathryn Hoeksema**, 6 years on the 31st.

Treasurer

Mike Matei
780 930-1780

President Leon Lubin welcomed 79 Gyros, Gyrettes and guests to the Annual Christmas Party held at the Riverview Room of the Shaw Conference Centre on Tuesday evening, December 1st. Our merry group was served turkey with all of the trimmings and each table of eight was treated to the carving wizardry of 10 of our finest turkey carvers. Thanks to **Ken Bowes, John Hope, Bruce Houston, Leon Lubin, Dick Nichols, John Mann, Roger Russell, Jack Slobodan, Len Stevens and Bill Taylor** for their contributions to a highly enjoyable event.

Directors

Peter Carter
780 488-2403
Sam Gruden
780 488-5520
Chuck Gerhart
780 439-9792
Ken Willan
780 434-1306

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
780 434-0925



Photo by Elaine and Allan Douglas

Bill Taylor Dick Nichols Ken Bowes John Mann Len Stevens Leon Lubin Jack Slobodan
 Bruce Houston Roger Russell John Hope

Dick Nichols reported on the results of the Gyro Hockey Pool.

Game 3 November 27	Winners	First Period	Second Period	Final	
Oilers vs. Sharks					
First	0	1	Carla Walker	Chuck Gerhart	Dan Warrack
Second	1	1	John Stroppa	Marilyn Nichols	Perry Baird
Final	4	5			

Game 4	December 4	Winners	First Period	Second Period	Final
Oilers vs. Detroit					
First	2	1	Jeff Larson	Cohen Sellar	Cohen Sellar
Second	4	1	Hoang Tran	Marilyn Nichols	Marilyn Nichols
Final	4	1			

Game 5	December 11	Winners	First Period	Second Period	Final
Oilers vs. St Louis					
First	0	1	Lauren Warrack	Jennifer Foy	Brooke Weisgerber
Second	1	3	Bill Clarke	Bridgett Connolly	Dean Larson
Final	5	3			

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

Cheerio was led by **Walter Yakimets** and the Grace was presented by **Allan Warrack**.

John Boyd introduced our guest speaker, **Dr. Lorne Tyrrell** who was raised on a farm west of Edmonton and obtained his BSc in 1964 and his MD from the University of Alberta in 1968. His PhD was earned in 1972 from Queens University and specialty training in internal medicine and infectious diseases followed in 1975 and 1976.

Dr. Tyrrell is a professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Immunology, University of Alberta. He was the Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, at the U. of A. (1994-2004) and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Order of Canada and the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Dr. Tyrrell began his presentation by emphasizing that basic medical research is the basis of all major transformations in healthcare. A good working relationship between government, universities and industry is essential and there have been dramatic improvements through efforts of this triad.

The presentation then focused on why we should be concerned about **Influenza A**. This influenza is very difficult to prevent because of its genetic makeup. It is a segmented viral genome with 8 RNA strands and 10 proteins. Epidemics of influenza occur every year and it is basically the same virus each year but with small changes (mutations) that require the development of different vaccines annually. The current Influenza A, H3N2 is the same strain that appeared for the first time in 1968.

Pandemics occur every 20-40 years and are a new strain that affects a much larger portion of the population. The 1918-19 Spanish Flu (H1N1) resulted in the deaths of 20-40 million people, the 1957 Asian Flu (H2N2) and the 1968 H3N3 Flu resulted in one million deaths each. The 2009 H1N1 Swine Flu is a pandemic with very little mortality. To date there have been about 4000 deaths worldwide; every day 4000 people die from Influenza A.

Important lessons were learned from the outbreak of **SARS** in Canada. One suspected visiting carrier of the disease was immediately quarantined in Vancouver and no additional infections occurred. In Toronto, an infectious overseas passenger was not immediately recognized as a carrier which led to widespread infection in Ontario. Exposure control is possible and can slow the spread of pandemics; the use of N95 masks in hospitals and widespread hand washing has proven to be very effective.

Background information on the development of an oral treatment for **Hepatitis B (HBV)** was provided by Dr. Tyrrell. He realized while teaching a graduate course in virology, that the structure of HBV and the unique way it replicates itself in liver cells in ducks could be used to develop a drug that would block the virus from reproducing in liver cells in people. Working with U of A chemist Dr. Morris Robins, Dr. Tyrrell and his team developed a system to test chemical compounds called nucleoside analogues, some of which suppressed HBV from replicating. This pioneering work with ducks, then with chimpanzees and finally with people clinical trials showed that oral doses of lamivudine dramatically reduced the amount of hepatitis B in their blood.

The hepatitis B virus has infected 350-400 million people worldwide or about 5% of the population and kills 3000 people daily. A major collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline has led to worldwide licensing of lamivudine as the first oral antiviral for the treatment of HBV infections. Lamivudine has been shown to decrease the development of cirrhosis or liver cancer in chronic HBV carriers. This work also reopened the option for resuming liver transplantation in patients with end-stage liver disease from HBV. In recognition of this significant medical research breakthrough, Dr. Tyrrell was awarded the Manning Foundation, EnCana Principal Award of \$100,000 in September 2005.

Dr. Tyrrell is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors' for the **Gairdner Foundation** which is the Canadian equivalent to the Nobel Prize Organization. The foundation has an International Award Program for outstanding bio-medical research.

Walter Yakimets thanked our speaker for a superb presentation which clearly demonstrated that Edmonton is no longer a backwater in bio-medical research.

John Ross won the free lunch draw.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, January 5th

Speaker: Joe Tassone, Edmonton Police Service

Topic: The use of conducted energy weapons (Tasers)

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, January 19th

Speaker: Jim Harvey of Sport Central, a very successful volunteer organization which distributes sports equipment to needy children.

District VIII Interim, Fairmont, B.C. March 12-14, 2010

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort: Rooms available for \$99 single or double plus taxes

International & District VII Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, St Paul, Minnesota, July 11-18, 2010

District VIII Convention 2010, "Come Play in the Park", Sherwood Park, AB, August 19-22, 2010