



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

January 5, 1999

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President Jack welcomed 26 GYROS who looked as though they had enjoyed a festive and well-fed holiday season. Your scribe arrived late so I cannot report on who led Cheerio, but I was told that up until almost the end it was sung in a variety of tunes, speeds and rhythms. Afterwards, **David Burnett** asked the blessing.

Dave Duchak provided the results of Game 7 in the hockey pool. It was played on December 26 when Toronto hosted Montreal. The score at the end of the first period was 1:1 and **Janet Russell** and **Peter Carter** each won \$10. At the end of the second the score was still 1:1 and, guess what, **Janet Russell** and **Peter Carter** each won \$15. The final score was 2:1 for the Canadians and **Mark Power** and **Valerie Jagoldis** each scored \$25.00. This was a good game for members of our club and PYS is rumored to have borrowed some of the winnings to pay off an overpayment from the welfare office.

Did you know that a New Year's Resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

The birthdays to report this meeting are the twin Johns born on January 2. **John Stroppa** and **John Ross** share that special event.

Gunnar Anderson introduced our guest speaker **Cort Smith**, the Vice-President of Corporate Services for the Edmonton Airport Authority. Cort talked about the impact of consolidation and the role of the Authority. Unlike other airport management in this country, the Edmonton Authority is charged with a responsibility for economic and community development. Consequently, it has relationships with the Mayor's Office, Economic Development Edmonton, other local municipalities, tourism authorities, West Edmonton Mall and others to coordinate activities to promote economic and community development in the Edmonton region.

Coordination has stimulated traffic and there are more non-stop flights to more destinations now than there was when there were two airports. Since 1995 the volume has more than doubled to almost four million passengers. There are over two percent more passengers this year than the year before. West Jet had had a major impact in two ways. It has increased the number of destinations for non-stop flights, and the reduced fares have attracted new flyers. Another impact has been on the competition who have had to lower their fares and this has also added to traffic volume.

The only area in which there has not been a significant increase in activity is in non-stop flights to international destinations. The Airport Authority is working hard to improve in this area.

In order to promote more and better services to and from Edmonton, we all need to make choices that will encourage the airlines to expand their services. One of the initiatives of the Authority is "Fly Edmonton First". If we all choose to take non-stop flights to our destinations, even if they are not as convenient as others, the increased volume will encourage carriers to add more flights.

Bruce Foy thanked the speaker on behalf of the club and then Cort promptly drew **Bruce's** name for a free lunch. Some of us know how to work the system better than others.

GREAT NEWS!!: On December 31, our friend **Dick Mandlis** had a kidney transplant. Although he is still in the monitoring phase, he is home in the afternoons and would enjoy visits. Give him a call and drop by!

It was great to see our good friend **Gord Rennie** out again to this meeting. He is feeling much better and looked greatly improved. When I asked him what is the difference between onions and bagpipes, he said "Nobody cries when you chop up bagpipes". Sorry **Gord**, good to have you back.

The Chief Engineer for Boeing stated to the Airline Pilots' Association concerned about flying two engine planes across the Pacific "When you have two engines, you can have two engines that can fall into bits. When you have four, you have four that can fall into bits. The less engines you have, the safer you are".

Upcoming Events: **John Plunkett** reminded us that the mixed, multi-club bowling is on for January 16 at the Edmonton Bowling Centre on Parsons Road just south of 34th Ave. The cost for fun "bowling" and pizza is \$15. At present we have 19 people signed up so if you want to be included, call **John** or **Allan Douglas**.

The "guest" speaker at our next meeting will be our own **Allan Warrack** who will be talking about Maritime megaprojects. **Allan** spent ten days in the Maritimes consulting related to Sable Island natural gas and explored the Confederation Bridge to PEI.