



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, July 29, 1921

**President-Ari Hoeksema, Past President-Bill Taylor,
1st Vice-President-John Boyd, Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Mike Matei,
Directors-Warren Garbutt, Marty Larson, Jack Little, Jim Lochhead,
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

JANUARY 2012

Those celebrating their birthdays in January are **John Ross, Cliff Revell** and **John Stroppa** on the 2nd; **John Boyd** and **Jim Lochhead** on the 26th and **Jack Brown** on the 31st.

President Ari Hoeksema welcomed 30 Gyro's and four guests to the January 3rd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club . **Vice-President John Boyd** led the merry group in the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace.

Cliff Revell introduced his guest **Hugh Moncrieff**, **Walter Yakimets** his guests **Dr. Ron Cavell** and son **Stephen Yakimets**. **Bob Boutilier** was acknowledged as our guest speaker.

Chuck Gerhart introduced our guest speaker, **Bob Boutilier, General Manager, Transportation Services Department, City of Edmonton**. Bob was educated at the Royal Military College in Kingston and spent 22 years in the Canadian Army as an electrical and mechanical engineer. He was then employed for four years with Calgary Transit, 12 years as Deputy General Manager with the Toronto Transit Commission and for the last five years with the City of Edmonton.

Bob is married to Verna, a well known duplicate bridge aficionado. They have one son, one daughter and one grandson.

The Transportation Services Budget for 2012 is **\$449 million** out of a total City operating budget of **\$1.88 million**. The Transportation Services Department consists of five major components; Edmonton Transit System (ETS), Light Rail Transit(LRT) Design and Construction, Roads Design and Construction, Transportation Operations and Transportation Planning.

ETS has a fleet of 885 New Flyer Low Floor, 40 foot buses; 13 New Flyer 60 foot Articulated buses and 45 Community buses. There are 189 city bus routes as well as 253 school bus routes served by 6274 bus stops (2010). There are 37 Siemens Duwag 160 (SD) light rail vehicles (LRV) and 37 U2 LRV's. Twenty new SD 160 LRV's will be delivered in late 2012. The existing **Clareview-Century Park line** is 21 km in length with 15 stations and carries 92,000 passengers daily. The **North LRT line** connecting downtown with MacEwan University Campus and NAIT will be complete in 2014.

The **(West) Lewis Estates- (South East) Mill Woods line** will use low floor LRV's that will provide easier passenger access and require less dedicated right-of-ways. There will also be underground or overhead track structures built at those major intersections where uninterrupted automobile traffic flow is essential. A future regional system will likely include connections to St Albert and Sherwood Park.

Editor's note: The **Edmonton to St. Albert Interurban Railway** operated for a short period of time in 1913 and 1914 using a tiny fleet of gasoline-powered street cars. Operations were suspended after a devastating fire in the car barn in April 1914, destroyed the fleet and was never to resume. Some track was leased and later sold to the Edmonton Radial Railway (the precursor to Edmonton Transit), and the rest was torn up in 1916-17, the steel recycled for wartime uses. (*From RIDE of the CENTURY, The Story of the Edmonton Transit System, Ken Tingley, 2011*)

The **snowfall of 2010-2011** was the worst experienced in 20 years and resulted in a major change in the snow removal policy for 2011-2012 due to many complaints and operational problems. Parking restrictions are now invoked on all major designated routes, all neighborhoods will receive snow plowing when depth criteria are met and more snow removal equipment has been purchased/leased. The annual snow removal budget is \$40 million and is held in a separate reserve fund,. The 2010-12 cost of snow renewal was \$70 million.

The City of Edmonton completed the most road work in one year in 2011. Prices were good and contractor availability was excellent. The 23rd Avenue Interchange at Calgary Trail, the Quesnell Bridge and the rebuilding of 99th Street were completed. A new approach was implemented with the 99th Street project with the full closure of the road to allow completion in one season.

The 2009-11 Capital Budget of \$3.6 billion was unprecedented. The tax supported Capital Budget for 2012-14 will be significantly less at \$2.3 billion.

The **Neighbourhood Renewal Program** was approved by City Council in 2008 and funds were obtained from provincial sources as well as a dedicated 1.5% property tax levy from 2009-11 and continuing until 2014. A 10 year \$150 million **Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program** was also created using tax supported debt. \$23 million was allocated in 2010-11 and \$45 million in 2012-14. There are 300 designated neighborhoods in Edmonton and 111 require complete road and underground utility reconstruction and 58 require pavement overlay. Four new neighborhoods will be slated for reconstruction each year. The City is still not ahead of the deterioration rate but it expected that within 10 years enough progress will have been made to fund the ongoing renewal/reconstruction from the normal property tax base.

The city is actively planning for increased use of arterial roads by bicycles as well as heavy truck traffic. New **dedicated bicycle lanes** were established in 2011 resulting in loss of on-street parking. The perception of bicycles on roads is changing and drivers and bicycle users will need to adjust to a greater "sharing of the road"

The use of **camera's** to control speeding on roads and through intersections has been controversial because of camera calibration problems and resulting legal reviews. The system is functioning as designed now and generates \$45 million annually. \$15 million is vested back to the Police Service and the rest is allocated to traffic safety programs.

The last leg of the **Anthony Henday Ring Road** from Manning Freeway to Highway 16 will be constructed in the next few years. All land required for the roadway and interchanges has been purchased by the province. The City of Edmonton will be required to pay for construction of arterial roads connecting to the new interchanges.



City of Edmonton Light Rail Transit Network

Gary Campbell thanked our speaker for a very interesting presentation on the complex nature of transportation.

The winner of the free lunch draw was **Warren Garbutt**.



City of Edmonton photo
 Low Floor LRT, Dublin, Ireland

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the Hockey Pool.

| Game | Date | Winners | First Period | Second Period | Final |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| Game 8 | January 3 | Oilers vs. Sabres | | | |
| First | 1 1 | Jonathon Foy | Cohen Sellar | David Ross | |
| Second | 2 2 | Ari Hoeksema | Sharon Matei | Lara Burnett | |
| Final | 3 4 | Emott Douglas | Erik Spink | Rudi Lukas | |

| Game | Date | Winners | First Period | Second Period | Final |
|--------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Game 9 | January 11 | Oilers vs. Devils | | | |
| First | 0 0 | Blair Tuck | Bea McKenzie | Ron Ramsey | |
| Second | 0 1 | Roger Russell | Jean Warrack | Paulette Schulte | |
| Final | 1 2 | Lawrence Zalasky | Gyro | Gyro | |

| Game | Date | Winners | First Period | Second Period | Final |
|---------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|
| Game 10 | January 19 | Oilers vs. Blues | | | |
| First | 0 0 | Jack Heibert | Jack Heibert | Brooks Ross | |
| Second | 0 0 | John Mann | John Mann | Darcy Burnett | |
| Final | 0 1 | David Dyck | David Dyck | Jason Campbell | |

President Ari Hoeksema welcomed 27 Gyros and six guests to the January 17th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **Jack Brown** and the Grace was presented by **Jim Lochhead**.

Larry Dobson introduced his son **Glenn Dobson**, **John Ross** introduced new member applicant, **Sheldon Weatherby**, **Ari Hoeksema** introduced **Hugh Moncrieff**, a previous guest of **Cliff Revell**; **David Schuster** our guest speaker and **Carl Knowler** of Canadian Western Bank were acknowledged by President Ari. The somewhat late **Jack Little** introduced Heritage Festival Board member and friend, **Tracy Deslaurier**.

Allan Douglas was honoured as a **25 year member** of the Edmonton Gyro Club. Allan was sponsored by John Ross in 1986. He served as President in 1996-97 and was Editor of the Gyrolog from 1995 to 2006. **Congratulations Allan!**



Allan Douglas 25 year member 2011

David Burnett introduced our guest speaker, **David Schuster**, one of the founders of **Adroit Investment Management**, part of the Canadian Western Bank Group. David received his MBA at the University of Alberta in 1987.

Founded in 1993, Adroit Investment Management Ltd. (Adroit) is a Canadian Western Bank majority-owned company that offers discretionary wealth management services for individuals, pension funds, endowment funds, and charitable organizations. Adroit currently has over \$800 million of assets under management.

The majority shareholder, Canadian Western Bank (TSX: CWB), is the largest publicly traded Canadian bank headquartered in Western Canada and boasts more than 26 years of business success. Based in Edmonton, Alberta, CWB Group has approximately \$14 billion of combined balance sheet assets and employs more than 1,800 people in over 50 different communities across Canada.

David is optimistic about our economic future but it will take time for the economy to improve. The leading economic indicators have improved over the last three years. The unemployment rate is dropping and the job seeker participation rate is increasing. In the USA the buying intentions, order intentions and new building permits are increasing. The Canadian corporate health is good. In China, they have probably overbought, especially in the base metals commodities area. The Chinese economy is slowing down and over the longer term there likely will be slower growth. The European situation needs to be resolved. Interest rates in Canada are at an all time low; the 30 year bond rate of 2.5% is not exciting.

Dividend yields from equities have provided a good rate of return compared to bonds; however no money has been made in Canada over the last five years and outside of Canada, none for 10 years. The long-term real return of bonds will decrease over the next 10 years. The U.S. Debt/GDP ratio was very high in the 1940's and it took 25 years to reduce that debt. It will take a long time for the USA to reduce its current debt. By 2015, we could be entering another bull market. In the next two to three years there will be much uncertainty.

President Ari thanked our guest speaker for an interesting and timely presentation. The free lunch draw was won by **John Boyd**.

The Alberta Centre on Aging at the University of Alberta is an interdisciplinary research and education centre dedicated to the study of aging. The Centre's focus is on aging as a process, including but not exclusive to the situations of older adults. The Gyro Club of Edmonton has a long-standing relationship with the Centre and over the years individual club members and the club as a whole have generously donated funds for the establishment of the **Centre for Gerontology Fund**. The



GYRO Club of Edmonton Graduate Scholarship in Aging-Master's Level Recipient 2012- Poongodi (Kodi) Sampath and Fred Schulte

book value of the endowment fund is now in excess of \$55,000 and provides yearly, one undergraduate scholarship of \$700, and a Master's and PhD scholarship each of \$1200.

The Alberta Centre on Aging has completed the adjudication process for the 2011-2012 Gyro Club of Edmonton Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarships in Aging. **Emily Li**, a student in third year Pharmacy has been selected to receive this year's undergraduate award. Emily is interested in work as a Clinical Pharmacist in a geriatric unit at a hospital or long-term care facility.

Poongodi (Kodi) Sampath was chosen as the Master's scholarship recipient in Nursing. Her area of interest is with innovative models of community support programs for older adults diagnosed with dementia.

Lisa Adams was chosen as the PhD scholarship recipient in Nursing. Her area of interest is focused on a provincial picture of an aging population who are not only trying to surmount life's everyday challenges and maintain good mental and physical health, but a group who are often ostracized by society.

Your Gyrolog Editor, **Fred Schulte** attended the January 20th, 2011 Research on Aging: Nibble, Nosh and Network Event at the University of Alberta and presented the scholarships to this year's winners on behalf of the Gyro Club of Edmonton.

FIRST POSTING

Sheldon Weatherby has applied for membership on our club. **Sheldon** and his wife **Judy** reside at **6018-47 Ave.** in **Beaumont**. Their postal code is **T4X 0A3**. Their telephone number is **780-929-0474** and their email address is sawweatherby@shaw.ca **Sheldon**, a semi-retired consultant and President of Sheldon Weatherby Consulting Services Inc. is proposed by **John Ross** and **Dick Nichols**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VALENTINES MIXED EVENT, Normand's Restaurant, Tuesday Evening, February 21st.

Dinner with an Australia/New Zealand and Alberta Theme

New Zealand Mussel soup, Normand's special Alberta Pickerel, Alberta Bison with a Kangaroo cutlet on the side, ending with the Aussie national dessert of Sticky Date Pudding.

We will be entertained by our own Mike and Sharon Matei.

Contact: Bill Taylor

District VIII Interim Convention, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, March 16-18.

Registration Fee: \$225/couple or \$112.50 single. Make cheques payable to Gyro District VIII and mail to Jim Barr, 128 Chaparral Ridge Circle SE, Calgary, AB T2X 3K3. Reserve your own room at the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, phone 1-800-663-4979 and specify "Gyro Interim".

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting and ELECTIONS, April 3rd

Speaker: John Carruthers, President, Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines

Topic: Proposed Oil Pipeline, Bruderheim, AB to Kitimat, BC

Contact: Gary Campbell

Elections: Past President Bill Taylor will present a proposed slate of officers for the 2012-13 Executive.

No Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting on April 17th!

Edmonton Waste Management Facility Tour, Mixed Event, Gyros/Gyrettes, Friday, April 20th

Time: All day event split into two groups, am and pm.

Contact: Larry George

Installation of 2012-13 Executive Officers, Mixed Gyro/Gyrette Event, Tuesday Evening, May 1st

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of mine!*



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2012 Centennial
Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio**



*Reds
Baseball*



The Queen City



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GYRO



Celebrating 100 years of Gyro
1912 – 2012



AUGUST 23 TO 26, 2012

CANMORE ALBERTA

HOSTED BY THE GYRO CLUB OF CALGARY

Steve Denny
CHAIRMAN

Robert Lane
REGISTRATION



www.gyroclubofcalgary.com