



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

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

**President-Jack Bowen, Past President-Ron Trant**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President-Georg Schuller**

**Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Larry Dobson**

**Directors- Bruce Foy, Jim Lepp, Sheldon Weatherby, Martin Marshall**

**Peter Carter (Ex-Officio)**

**Database Administrator-Chuck Gerhart, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

**Club Website: [www.edmontongyroclub.com](http://www.edmontongyroclub.com)**

---

## **JUNE 2023**

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Warren Garbutt** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Tony Mazzuca** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and **Jim Lepp** on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Ray** and **Donna Dallaire**, 44 years on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; **Ken** and **Barbara Willan**, 57 years on the 4<sup>th</sup>; **Walter** and **Kay Yakimets**, 64 years on the 6<sup>th</sup>; **Larry** and **Carol Dobson**, 56 years on the 17<sup>th</sup>; **Ron** and **Marlene Ramsey**, 63 years on the 24<sup>th</sup> and **Jack** and **Sylvia Little**, 54 years on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**John Boyd** played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **Vice-President Georg Schuller** welcomed 25 Gyros and two guests to the June 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club.

**Jim Lepp** introduced his wife **Gayl** and **Ray Dallaire** introduced his guest, **Craig Hamaliuck**.

**V.P. Georg** asked for a minute of silence in memory of **Alan Rusler** who was a 22-year member of our club and died on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Doug Armstrong** led the singing of Cheerio and **Georg** presented the Grace.

**Lt. Governor Dunc Mills** spoke about plans for the **2025 Gyro International Convention**. A meeting was held recently with members of the **Sherwood Park Gyro Club** who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025. The Edmonton and Sherwood Park Club's are jointly sponsoring this convention event.

One of the options under consideration is an Alaskan cruise commencing in Vancouver, British Columbia. One of the advantages is that all the food and entertainment would be provided by the cruise line. The preliminary fare estimate is around \$900 per person.

**Jim Lepp** spoke on behalf of our speaker, **Arnold Janz**.

Our speaker is a newfound friend for me with a similar Mennonite background and a significant ancestral connection that speaks to his character. His great grandfather, a Mennonite pastor, shepherded about 20,000 Mennonites, including my mother and father out of Russia and into Canada. And he married my mother and father, despite my mother being doctrinally compelled to marry a member of her church. He said that they were both good Mennonite Christians who should be married. Prompted by his values, this courageous Pastor, B. B. Janz, crossed the doctrinal barrier and married them in my father's Mennonite Church.

Today, I am pleased to read for our speaker, **Arnold Janz**, who is unable to attend due to illness.

His presentation discusses how and why Alberta continues to accumulate a huge environmental debt that began after Premier Ernest Manning's leadership ended.

*Editor's note: The complete presentation is not presented here but rather a high-level summary.*

*A summary of the important issues raised in **Creating Alberta's Environmental Debt** follows:*

***Arnold Janz** grew up in a Mennonite Community on a small irrigation farm in southern Alberta where respect for God, government, fellow human beings, the land and personal integrity were taught and encouraged. These values and a strong sense of the importance of land conservation led Arnold to the choice of specializing in soil science at the University of Alberta.*

*Mr. Janz's initial experience with an engineering consulting company in Calgary led to a position with the provincial Department of Environment in 1987. One key piece of instruction was "**use your best judgement**". The entire process of authorizations and closure of energy footprints were imprecise. A scientific approach was not essential. There were few consistent rules for inspecting industrial land or for making yes/no decisions for government sign-off on oil and gas sites. Heavy equipment impacts on soil were real and long-lasting across a wide range of landscapes and soils. Field observations and interactions with other scientists, field staff and landowners showed enduring impacts on agricultural operations, crops, native grassland, and boreal ecosystems from well sites, access roads, pipelines, and other energy facilities.*

*Provincial legislation was vague but gave the sense of "**leave the land in the same condition as you found it.**" That became the basis for advice to government staff and industry operators. Hundreds of sites were visited, and Alberta Environment reclamation field inspectors were advised accordingly. Some inspectors followed this advice and others did not. This led to inconsistency across the province and the energy industry complained that the reclamation standards were unrealistic, unfair and a hardship on their bottom line.*

Provincial conservation and reclamation standards were revised in 1993 with new province-wide legislation mandating that a **“an operator must conserve specified land”**. This provided a firm legal foundation for the principle of **“leave the land in the same condition as you found it”**. Industry did not complain about this new legislation but relied in their ability to lobby for relaxed policy and field standards at field inspector level.

After 1995, Arnold Janz began to experience fierce opposition from industry and some government managers because he kept recommending and insisting on the provincial legislated standard. Ultimately, he was not allowed to undertake field work. In 2002 he started to analyze the effectiveness of the provincial land conservation and reclamation program. Several comprehensive studies and reports were prepared that confirmed that the system was flawed. Alberta Energy and Alberta Environment were not aligned towards the provincial goals of land conservation and stewardship. Senior managers showed no interest in the results of these collaborative efforts, and the reports were put on the shelf.

**In March 2014, the Alberta Energy Regulator( AER) became the single regulator for energy development in Alberta;** it now enforces environmental laws and issues environmental and water permits for energy developments, which were formerly responsibilities of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.<sup>1</sup> **The AER is 100 per cent funded by industry** and is authorized to collect funds through an administrative fee levied on oil and gas wells, oil sands mines, and coal mines.

A colleague advised Janz that the government would only make meaningful program changes based on **actual field research** that clearly demonstrated the deficiencies and failures of the existing Land Conservation and Reclamation Act. **Enough funding was received to support a three-year field research program** to study and report on the effects of upstream oil and gas on quality of three types of land: agricultural, forests and grasslands. This had never been done before and a total of 73 reclaimed and certified energy leases were scientifically assessed. More than 8000 soil samples were collected and analyzed. The University of Alberta and Alberta Innotech managed the research for Alberta Environment.

*Several peer-reviewed publications were generated from these studies. **All showed clearly that most of the reclaimed and certified well sites did not meet the goals of the provincial legislation. This reflected badly on government policies and programs.***

*Managers and policy makers showed no interest in the field research work and Arnold retired in 2021.*

**Jim Lepp** concluded his reading with these remarks:

In the past few years, media have been reporting that Alberta, over several decades has been creating a huge environmental debt currently at forty to seventy billion dollars to bring oil and gas well sites up to Alberta's environmental standards.

I know that this huge environmental debt in Alberta DID NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN. The main reasons are first, that I worked for the Alberta Oil and Gas Conservation Board in 1959 when Alberta was recognized as a world leader in setting, regulating, and ensuring compliance with environmental standards for a successful oil and gas industry. We had visitors from around the world that wanted to follow our example. Second, I had similar on the ground experiences to Arnold while managing pipe mills in Alberta. Third, North Dakota shares our southern border. While we were fussing with more vague laws to enhance: the *Alberta Advantage*", they instituted "pump or plug" legislation which means that after one year of no production, they call the company's bond, levies fines, and plugs the well itself.

Indeed, we failed, and continue to fail, to maintain our standards.



A divine liturgy was held on Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Edmonton for **Katherine Anne "Kay" Yakimets**.

Kay is survived by her husband of 64 years, Walter; children, Walter Jr. (Cindy), Stephen (Marilyn), Dawn-Marie (Mark), and Neil (Brenda). Kay was Nana to Megan (Kyle), Bryan (Aidan), Jamie, Sarah, Braem (Danitza), David, Chantel (Daniel), and Mathew. Grandchildren by marriage are Jonathan (Mark), Dylan, Timothy (Jennah), and great-grandson, Beau.

Kay was born in Medicine Hat in 1937; her parents lived in Manyberries. The Yorke family moved to Jasper when Kay was one-year old. She attended grades one to twelve in Jasper and then moved to Edmonton to complete her RN and BSc. Kay met **Walter Yakimets** who was a third-year medical student. They married in 1959 and Kay spent over a year working in public health. Following the birth of Walter Jr., they spent three years working in New Zealand, where Stephen was born. After returning to Edmonton, Dawn-Marie and then Neil rounded out the family.

Kay was active in the community - being a Brownie leader and participating in curling, golf, tennis, and cross-country skiing.

Walter and Kay joined the Edmonton Gyro Club in 1997 and were active friends in many Gyro events and conventions. Kay will be missed!





**President Jack Bowen** welcomed 43 Gyros/ Gyrettes and one guest to the June 20<sup>th</sup> **First Day of Summer Event** held at the Derrick Golf and Winter Club.

**Maureen Michie** was a returning guest from Edinburgh, Scotland, and life-long friend of **Marion Boyd**. Maureen and Marion were childhood school pals, and both became nurses.

We were treated to a leisurely barbecue dinner. The Derrick Club prepared a special menu for us that included a wide variety of salads, three different barbecued entrees including burgers, chicken breasts or smokies with all the trimmings. Buttered corn on the cob. Fresh fruit, cheeses, dessert squares and NO calories!

**Lt. Governor Dunc Mills** led the group in the **Tray Game**. Each separate group of six men or women were instructed to view 12 items and then the items were covered, and you were given 30 seconds to write down as many items as you could remember. There was a two-way tie between **Jean Warrack** and **Maureen Michie** with 9 correct answers. Maureen won \$15 and Jean \$10.



**Mike Matei** correctly guessed nine answers and there was a five-way tie for 8 correct answers. Mike won \$15 and **Sheldon Weatherby** won \$10.

The Tray Game is also known **Kim's Game** which is often played by Boy Scout's and the military. The game develops a person's capacity to observe and remember details. The name is derived from Rudyard Kipling's 1901 novel **Kim**, in which the protagonist plays the game during his training as a spy.

A Ceremony naming the **Marilyn and Richard Nichols Green** was held at the Delwood Community Center on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Cam Nichols Richard Nichols Janice Molofy**

## Jan's Words

It was 58 years ago this summer when Dick and Marilyn found their dream home in the newly developing Delwood Community League. They were expecting a baby in December (a pretty cute baby as it turns out – wink). They moved in Grey Cup Day. I'm Dick & Marilyn's daughter, Janice, and I'd like to introduce you to our family:

Many of you know my dad, Dick Nichols, one of the two people we are here to celebrate. Today is a little bittersweet, because sadly, the other one, my mom, passed at the end of June five years ago. She would have loved this park. Since then, Dad misses her every day, but is so lucky to have found someone to share the golden years of his life with, his partner, Sharon.

My brother Cam Nichols. My sister-in law Shauna, and my two nephews Brett and Connor. My husband Randy. Our children, Anders, Brock, and Samantha. We're all here for the same reason and I'm pretty excited, and proud, to have my parents honoured in this heartfelt and meaningful way; honoured in this community that they helped build, that they felt so connected to and love so much.

While I was growing up I remember my mom and dad were always so good at building an extended family. The neighbours on both sides, across the back alley, down the block. All the moms and dads knew each other, and we kids were outside all the time. My mom made the best chocolate chip cookies, every kid on the block knew it. She would make them and store them in ice cream pails (you know the 4L size). Cam and I and our friends could go through a bucket pretty quick. A few years passed and the community was ready to build the skating rink and rink shack. Delwood was full of young families with many people willing to help out. My dad was one of those people; he is a very handy guy and was very involved in that project. The winter after completion my brother, Cam was skating around in a Delwood Community League hockey jersey, shoulder pads, helmet, and the works. His proud dad right there on the bench with him. A few years later I was playing baseball for Delwood. My mom was the "coach", my

dad came out to every practice to take one kid at a time to the other diamond and work with them until they could hit the ball. We didn't have any jerseys ... and who had money then ... so my folks devised this plan ... they bought green sweatshirts for each one of us and using the best dye pen technology of the time (wink wink) dad made a homemade stencil cardboard and mom ensured that every shirt had "DELWOOD" in all caps across our chest. We were so proud to have "real jerseys". I actually, wore that sweatshirt for years.

A couple of times after a game, mom would put the whole team in her Meteor fastback and take us to Dairy Queen. Again, my parents knew how to build that feeling of community. My mom was a stay-at-home mom. She volunteered for every fieldtrip I ever took, ... came in and taught knitting and crocheting at the school. She had a friend of hers teach me how to craft and before long she had me making items she could sell at her Rebekah's craft sales. When I was a little older I would tag along with her to all the craft bees the Rebekah's had. That was the ticket, get together, chatter up a storm, laugh, giggle, and do something that somehow, would give back to the community. She was a member of the IOOF Service Organization for 60 years.

At every turn in my life my mom and dad were at the center of our activities, mom was the President of Auralta Skating Club at Londonderry arena when I started skating, Dad was first a hockey coach, then a volunteer on the hill at every one of my brothers ski races. My parents showed us that work and being in service to others was rewarding. "Do your best, it feels good".

Service was important, but if it was mixed with fun, even better. Anyone that played cards with my mom would tell you that she was a card shark. She and my dad taught our kids to play poker before they were ten. She loved the atmosphere at the casinos.

She didn't necessarily want to gamble, but she loved being in the energy. Before you knew it she was volunteering to be the General Manager for all sorts of non-profit organizations casinos: Delwood Community League, Friends of the Edmonton Public Library, IOOF, the community league that Randy and I live in, the playschool my children went to, every school my children have ever gone to, and the list went on. She did that for about forty years, up until her passing.

But if you think the casino volunteering was mom's thing and my dad was off the hook, you've got another thing coming. They were a team.

Anytime anyone in the neighbourhood needed help with anything, dad was there to fix it for them. He still cuts the grass and shovels the walks of his two neighbours, in addition to his own.

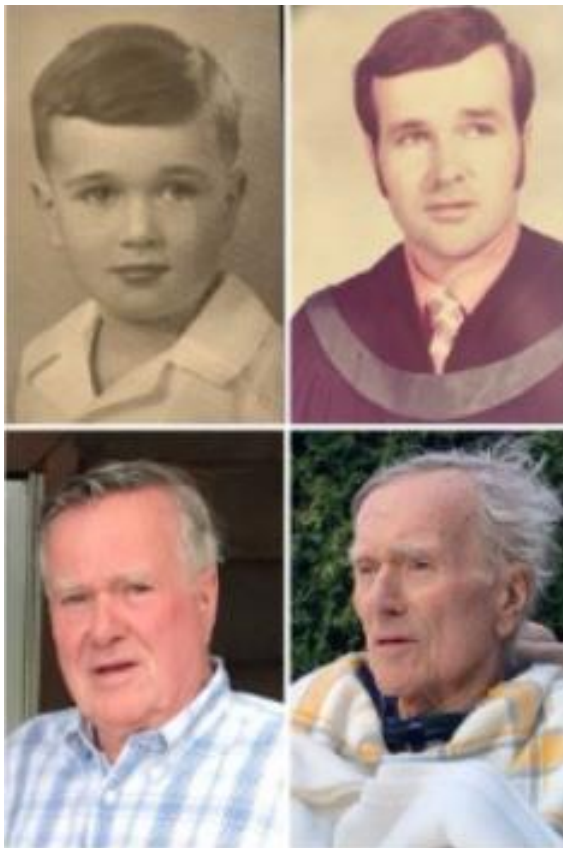
When apple computers came out and made having a "home computer" a "thing". My dad had to have one. He introduced me to my first spreadsheet. The concept of storing, copy and pasting, averaging, etc. was a windfall for the ski racing community. He was the race secretary for many races after that, with me in tow to be his secretary. My dad has volunteered on every ski hill in Alberta and BC, thanks to my brother's success in competitive skiing.

My mom and dad got it. They understood ... things had to get done and it took volunteers to get things done.

At every turn of my life, it was instilled in me that the people you spend time with are your family ... and you do anything to support your family. Not every volunteer act I witnessed was for a big cause, many were small and varied. In fact, as a child, youth and young adult, I never saw my parents as special. It thought everyone was as involved as they were. It's only as I became a parent and stepped into those very familiar shoes of a volunteer, did I realize that not everyone is as caring and selfless and my parents. .... I am so incredibly grateful for the choices my parents made to fill up their life, and subsequently mine and my brothers, with a life of service and the fulfillment that it brings, the community that it builds, and the richness

it adds to everyone around them. My brother and his family ... and me and my family extend the hugest, most heartfelt thank you to all those involved for acknowledging Marilyn and Dick in this way. Thank you to the City of Edmonton, Delwood Community League Board, all those who wrote letters of support such as the Rebekah's & Oddfellows and The Gyro Club of Edmonton and especially the sub-committee who focused on this effort. The immense amount of time, effort, research, and perseverance that went into creating a nomination package for the City of Edmonton was considerable. The fact that the committee was willing to go to this extent speaks loudly to the amount of gratitude and respect they hold for my parents.

Thank you all ... for recognizing how incredibly special Marilyn and Dick are. Dick and Marilyn have enriched countless lives over the years, and no doubt, my dad will continue to enrich the lives of those around him for many years to come.



**Alan George Rusler**  
**09-Mar-1939-27-May-2023**

## *Alan Rusler*

With great sadness the family of Alan Rusler announce his passing at his home in Edmonton, Alberta. As the Rusler patriarch and valued community member, Alan is remembered for his kindness, humility, loyalty, humour, mentorship, and unwavering love for his family and close friends.

In 2001 he was predeceased by wife of 33 years, Natalie (Dr. Nataalka Horeczko). He leaves behind three children; Debra, Janis, Dan and wife Miranda, and six grandchildren; Ezekiel, Dominic, Thane, Lyndin, Drinnen, Arden. In addition to dear friends, colleagues, and extended family members, Alan's close companion Lorraine Assheton-Smith mourn the loss of a true gentleman.

Born in Calgary, Alan was the oldest child of Dan and Martha Rusler (Drinnan) with brother David (deceased 1957) and sister Joan (Small). Dan was a Bank of Montreal Manager and the Rusler family moved through Alberta communities of Acme, Carbon, Drumheller, Carstairs, Magrath, and Grande Prairie, eventually settling in Calgary. Alan studied business at University of British Columbia, worked with Ford Motor credit, and ultimately graduated with a teaching degree in 1972 from University of Alberta. He dedicated his professional teaching career of 35 years to Spruce Grove Composite High School where he led the industrial arts program, taught science, and coached the golf team.

Al was a resident of Edmonton's Brookside neighborhood for almost five full decades where he fostered the growth of his family and community. He dedicated extensive time to: coaching his kid's various sports team including soccer + baseball + hockey, enthusiastically supporting and shuttling kids and grandkids to activities, listening and discussing, building and tinkering, tending to his landscaped yards, and periodically climbing / falling off ladders. He enjoyed almost 50 years of summer month splendors at Shuswap Lake, BC where he regularly performed grade 'A' belly flops into the lake and shirtless hunts for pesky crows and wasps. Al frequently attended Edmonton sporting and cultural events, particularly Oiler's / Bear's hockey and Eskimo's football games along with local theatre and Symphony Orchestra programming. With over 26 years of active retirement

his fondness for the Gyro / Gyrette Social Club, rounds of well above par fair-weather golf, and a weekly exercise routine at the Saville Center including the gentlemen's post workout latte + sweet treats, characterized an energetic lifestyle well into his 80's. He continually engaged in community volunteer service including Compassion House and Habitat for Humanity along with on-going charitable contributions. Al's warm-hearted nature and fiercely independent spirit defined his distinguished character.

He exemplified a strong sense of patience and perseverance with an inspiring humble resilience regardless of life's challenges. His attitude on energy, commitment / relationship building, and tempering expectations: "we need to put in twice as much as we expect to get out" is a wise and poignant adage for today's condition and future generational growth. To honour his devotion to kids and his appreciation for the value of education and life experience please donate to The Alan Rusler Memorial Fund at Gardom Lake Camp – Enderby, BC so that more kids can create lasting memories at summer camp. [office@gardomlake.ca](mailto:office@gardomlake.ca)

For all of this and more, we thank him for showing us a life well lived.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Friday September 8, 2023 – 5:30pm at The University Club, UofA, Edmonton.

Please wear color.

The family would appreciate any photos you have of Alan.

Please rsvp to: [beautifulawakenings@icloud.com](mailto:beautifulawakenings@icloud.com)



Alan Rusler  
Christmas Carver  
December 2011



Alan and his GYRO friends May 2015





Edmonton GYRO Christmas Luncheon Dec 2022

**John Ross** sponsored Alan in 2001. Alan served as a Director in 2005-06 and 2006-07 as well as 2015-16 and 2016-17. He was a consistent friend who made things happen and will be greatly missed.

**Fast Fred**

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Derrick Golf and Winter Club, July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Speaker: Eden Hampson**

**Topic: Street Smarts and Staying Safe for “old white guys”**

**Team Leader: Ray Dallaire**

**Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Derrick Golf and Winter Club, July 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Speaker: Christopher Jass, PhD.**

**Topic: Ice Age Fossils in Alberta**

**Team Leaders: Bruce Foy and Fred Schulte**

**Gyro District VIII Convention, Thursday, July 27-Sunday July 30**

**Deerfoot Inn & Casino Convention Centre, Calgary**

**Ken Baker, Convention Chairman, Calgary Gyro Club.**

<http://www.calgarygyroclub.com>

**Gyro International Gyro District VII Convention, “Summer Nights & Northern Lights” August 23-27 Winnipeg**

<http://winnipeg.gyro.org/>