



THE GYROLOG

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Gyrolog

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A Gathering of Gyro Friends, March 1, 2005

There existed today the sincere sense of hope that since March has come in like a lamb that it will not go out like a lion thereby adversely impacting on our President's mantra of "another beautiful day in paradise." Today we also found that President Dick, unlike most Edmontonians, does not draw the curtains late in the evening. He opens them so that as the early morning rays of our sun begin to peak over the eastern horizon he can awake to "another beautiful day in paradise".

Last week we learned of the budgetary machinations of our federal government. Shortly we will be provided the budget of our provincial government for fiscal 2005-2006. Is it appropriate for some reflections on shared images of "great men/minds" on government?

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."
(Winston Churchill)

"A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money." (G. Gordon Liddy)

"Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner." (James Bovard – Civil Libertarian)

"Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else." (Frederic Bastiat – French Economist)

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: if it moves, tax it; if it keeps on moving, regulate it; and if it stops moving, subsidize it." (Ronald Reagan)

"The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other." (Ronald Reagan)

"No man's life, liberty or property is safe while the legislature is in session." (Mark Twain)

(Ontario's Premier is beginning to make the same sounds as these -)

"In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other."
(Voltaire, 1764)

Enough!! Enough!! Al Rusler, using a B flat note as our cue, led us in a hearty round of Cheerio. Gerry Glassford asked the blessing on our meeting and on our food. President Dick informed all present

that we were to share a very special program. Two new Club members, Eric Spink and Martin Sawden, had graciously agreed (well, perhaps that might not be a totally authentic reflection of the request/response pattern that preceded the meeting though it does reflect the behaviors of both speakers) to share with us a brief biography of their walk through the valleys and hills of life.

Eric Spink (Christina Gauk)

A native Edmontonian (his mother was born in Rimby and his father moved to Edmonton at an early age) Eric is the younger of two boys. He was active in sports from an early age and loved baseball, hockey, lacrosse and, in particular skiing. His father encouraged his boys to be “tough” and skiing was a tough sport at a time when there were few tow ropes to carry you to the top of the hills. It was also a tough sport in Edmonton before “global warming” swept the prairies. The Spink family skied in all weather conditions. Skiing at -40 degrees F. simply meant that there were many more opportunities to enjoy a good run – there fewer skiers on the hill to complicate your chosen path.

When Eric was young the educational philosophy that governed academic progress was to advance students through the grades at a rate that reflected their mastery of material – some students were “skipped” to a higher grade if they could handle the new level of material and others were kept back (they used the “f” term in the days of Eric’s youth) if the students rate of mastery was slow. Eric was a “bright young whipper-snapper” and so skipped onto a higher grade when he was very young. This advancement posed no problem for him until he reached Grade 7. He was a “very young” junior high student. He was also (in his own words) a “smart-mouthed, yappy kid”. Not a very good combination when there were some rather “early maturers” in grades 7 and 8. Fortunately Eric had always been fleet afoot and this talent stood him in good stead on several occasions.

On graduation, the U of A beckoned and Eric enrolled. But the timing was not “right” and the “fit” was not “perfect”. Eric decided to try the world of “gainful” employment. Job opportunities were there for the taking and he tried a smorgasbord of jobs finishing off with employment in a factory that produced steel drums with Eric filling the role of a human fork lift. This job generated in Eric a high level of motivation – to go back to university. He did and the rest, as they say, is history. He completed his BA, considered several options (many attractive save for a future career) and eventually went into law. He articulated in Edmonton, passed his bar exams, married and together with his new bride took off a year to tour the world. In 1986 the Spinks welcomed twin daughters to their family – a most welcome addition. With their arrival, however, Eric had to confront the reality that law, while offering wonderful, wide range of challenging opportunities was also extraordinarily demanding of time. Casting about for a life with a better balance, Eric found that opportunity with the Alberta Securities Commission. He joined the ASC in 1988. The philosophy of this organization fit well with his philosophy of life – to contribute to the well being of others, to protect the public. In 1990 a new window of opportunity opened at the U of A – and he joined the Alberta Law Reform Centre. We were not quite sure if there was a causal link between his acceptance of this new position and in his next decision. It was to take up running again!! He joined

a well-known running group, the Chasques. He helped to organize running events including the Jasper-Banff Relays and also took up the coaching duties of the softball team his daughters played on. In 1997 Eric rejoined the Alberta Securities Commission as the Vice-Chair and continued with this organization until it closed its doors in 2003. Today Eric is an independent consultant, a regular volunteer with several organizations, a director with the Alberta Capital Market group and a teacher of school-age youth in the area of economic literacy.

Eric re-married in 2001. His wife, Christina Gauk, is also a lawyer and he told us that he is still looking forward to winning an argument with her. He plays hockey, runs and has taken up the playing of an electric guitar. Days ago he and his teammates on the Molson Lites Hockey squad registered to play in the upcoming world seniors games here in Edmonton.

Eric's 10 minutes of fame occurred not too long ago when the piercing screams of a woman drew the attention of he and his wife. The woman was running valiantly after a hooded man who was racing away from her with her purse in his hand. Without hesitation Eric called on his wife to stop their vehicle, leaped outside and took up the chase. As he passed a group of onlookers he saw one man shouting at the fleeing man. In his raised hand he held a small hammer. "Come on," yelled Eric, "together we can get him!". Being both fit and fleet of foot, Eric ran the thief down, tackled him and then found that while the chap was no shakes as a runner he was pretty strong. Just as things were looking a bit bleak, Eric's friend with the hammer appeared (and they knew each other having both run together in the Boston Marathon). With hammer raised, and a threatening countenance Eric's friend chided the thief, "If you don't stop struggling, I will beat the heck out of you!!" (For purposes of decorum, Eric has edited these words.) Eric left us with this moral to contemplate: "Do what you think is right and hope that your friends will back you up." A good Gyro moral!

Martin Sawden (Nesta)

Martin found his way to Edmonton via Great Britain, Switzerland, the US and Calgary. Enroute he has learned he prefers occupations that encourage the growth of people rather than the consumption of people. Early in his life he entered the world of electrical engineering and while it provided challenges it did not bring personal satisfaction. Indeed, his greatest satisfaction derived from his "professional voice training" that occurred regularly as he led sing-a-longs from the back of the bus after rugby games. Seeking the elusive grail called "personal satisfaction" he found his way across the channel, through the French countryside, and into Basel, Switzerland. "When in Switzerland," mused Martin, "do what the Swiss do!" So he went into the world of banking. "Banking was awful," reported Martin, "but its saving grace was that it allowed me to go skiing every weekend."

But deep in his soul there was a restlessness. Martin knew that he loved math, art and geography. But where, in life's mosaic of professions, could one find a career that brought satisfaction to all three needs? He struck upon landscape architecture!! Here he found a life that quelled his restless soul. Fortuitously about this time he met Nesta and so began "one of the great love stories of the 20th and 21st C." They married in 1971. Skied

the sunny slopes of the Alps every weekend, and, in the fullness of time, begun a family - a son and a daughter. Nesta and Martin's daughter is a vivacious, optimistic wildlife biologist who loves to share the joys of new findings in her field with her parents. Their son is an excellent manager of people; an excellent decision-maker and a resourceful project director. When encouraged by Martin to list the career that was most appealing to him, his son promptly replied, "A fighter pilot!" Canada's DND has been short of funds so few opportunities have been open in this field. Undaunted, the two pursued other possibilities. Finally Martin's son said, "Dad, I think what I would really like to do is to own a bar in a mountain resort town!!" Targeting that goal, he is now enrolled in business. Martin looks forward to his own *après ski* "watering hole".

Martin and his family moved from the US to Canada in 1982, a lured by the belief that Calgary's streets were paved with gold. He signed on with a company in the fair city to our south for a three-year term (they had, they assured him, plenty of work). 'Lo the three years work reduced rapidly to 8 months. Nesta, fortunately, had excellent training in physiotherapy and, in 1984, the family headed north to Edmonton where an opportunity for Nesta beckoned. Since arriving here, Martin has found a new career that is both demanding and satisfying. He has started his own company where he consults with the captains of industry in creating sustainable workplaces in communities throughout the US and Canada - he is back to growing people rather than consuming them. He also is a coach/trainer of those who wish to enhance their speaking abilities and judged by his excellent presentation he is a fine coach/trainer in this area.

Today, Martin has taken up many new recreational pursuits. He loves to sail, hike in the mountains, paint, and to read. He has a small day-sailor that he loads onto his car and ferries to one of Alberta's lakes. His experiences as a day-sailor have taught him that waves on east-west oriented lakes, while not of tsunami quality, can be troublesome. The winds can quickly churn up decent sized white caps and if you are loaded bow-heavy while sailing into those choppy waves you can quickly fill a small, plastic sail craft. Your crew had best learn how to scramble to the stern quickly in cases like this.

FREE LUNCH

President Dick thanked our two new members for their excellent autobiographical sketches and then challenged them to cut the cards for a Gyro free lunch by finding a new winner. Despite their best efforts, they failed. Marty Larson's name came up again!!

25 YEAR PIN

President Dick awarded a 25 Year Pin to **Allan Warrack** and Allan, in thanking Dick and the Club reminded us that our friend, **Al McClure** (now living in Winnipeg) had joined our Club the same day as he had. It was good to remember **Al and Bette** who added so much to our Club during their years as members.

BIRTHDAYS

If you should happen to see the following Gyros this month, shake their hand, and wish them a very happy birthday: **Al Rusler, Roy Bennett, Ernie Siedel, Barry Walker, and Don Assheton-Smith** Happy birthday, fellows!!

HOCKEY POOL RESULTS

Dave Duchak reported on the hockey pool results of February 19 and 26. In the game played on February 19, the Road Runners took on Manitoba and came out on the short side of a 2-1 score. The winners of the first period score were **Eileen Kuhl** and **Kendra Russell** while the same two people won the pot for the second and the third period – **Peter Butler** and **Mike Matei**.

On February 26th the Road Runners played the Cleveland Barons and once again fell just short – losing to the Barons 4-3. The winners of the 1st period pool were **Jack Ellis** and **Beth Siegel**; now watch this for consistency folks: and the winners of the second period were **Eileen Kuhl** and **Kendra Russell** while the winners of the third period pool were **Peter Butler** and **Sharon Matei**.

Special thanks to **Dave** and his team for their superb performance in keeping our hockey pool operating each season (even when the NHL cannot manage to keep their league going). Well done, gentlemen.

GYRO INTERNATIONAL BOCCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Event organizer, Victor Jagoldas, noted that there is still a slot open for one more international-level bocce player for the March 7th championships. Sign up by contacting Victor if you want to join this august group. Play begins at 5:30 PM at the Italian Cultural Centre. The cost is \$34.00 with wine at dinner and \$29.00 for those who are not wine aficionados.

GYRO PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Marty Larson reported that the number of sponsors for our June tournament continues to climb. To date we have not lost a sponsor from last year, and those who have continued to support the fundraising tournament are often committed to a higher level than last year. We will need help to recruit players for the tournament so if you know of players who might be interested urge them to be in touch with the Club.

ANNUAL GYR RACE DAY

Val Pohl reported to the group that we have booked our annual race day at Northlands for September 25th. If you plan to attend, please book this event into your calendar now.

DISTRICT VIII INTERIM GYRO CONVENTION (March 18th – 20th at Fairmont)

To date seven couples (**Walter and Kay Yakimets**, **Dick and Marilyn Nichols**, **Alice and Gerry Glassford**, **Barry and Val Walker**, **Jack and Joyce Brown**, **Larry and Carol Dobson**, and our PIP **Marty and Shirley Larson**). It may still be possible for others to join this group of seven (depending upon room availability). Contact **Gerry Glassford** at 430-7108 if you are interested.

GYRO DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION – 2007

President **Dick** reported that plans are moving forward for the District VIII Convention that our club will host in 2007. It seems like it is a long way in the future but it is amazing how quickly the time for planning will pass through the hourglass.

NEXT MEETING

Our next Club meeting will be held March 15 at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. **Larry Dobson** and his team tell us that the speaker will be **Bruce Saville** and that we will need to come to the meeting to learn about the topic. *His topic will be “No Hockey, No Debt, No Future”.*

It was nice to see **Mort Morter** back at our meetings – great recovery, **Mort!**

Barry walker advises that the Golf scramble will be on Tuesday July 12, 2005 at the Legends. T-Off is at 1:00 PM with a steak BBQ to follow. Cost for the golf and BBQ is \$50 and for the BBQ only \$28. Remember fellows we need prizes, prizes and more prizes.

Many thanks to PDG Gerry Glassford for writing this Gyrolog.

Same Old Bull

Allan



This Issue Authored By Gerry Glassford Jr.