



THE GYROLOG

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-Jack Little, Past President-John Mann,
1st Vice-President-Peter Carter 2nd Vice-President- Ray Dallaire
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Alan Rusler, Tracy DesLaurier, Tony Mazzuca
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

APRIL 2016

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Jack Little** on the 1st, **Larry Wang** on the 5th, **Cliff French** on the 7th, **Fred Schulte** on the 13th and **Mort Morter** on the 24th. **Val** and **Linda Pohl** celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on April 1st.

It is with regret that we acknowledge the resignation of **Larry George** on April 3rd. We wish Larry and Laura Melnyk all the best in their future endeavours.

OFFICIAL CLUB NOTICE

**The Gyro Club of Edmonton
Constitution and By-Laws**

Pursuant to Article XIII-Amendments

**Notice is hereby given that proposed amendments to the March 20, 2007
Constitution and By-Laws will be discussed with members on **June 17, 2016****

**Copies of the proposed amended Constitution and By-Laws dated..... will be
provided to all members prior to the June 17th meeting.**

Vice-President Peter Carter welcomed 45 Gyros and two guests to the April 5th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace.

Ray Dallaire introduced his guest and new member applicant, **Ron Trant** and **Bob Bahniuk** introduced his guest and new member applicant, **Jack Bowen**.

Past President John Mann presented the proposed **Slate of Officers** for the **2016-2017 Fiscal Year**. Nominations from the floor were called three times but none were offered. Nominations were closed and John Mann moved that the proposed slate of officers be approved, motion seconded by **Bill Taylor** and the members approved unanimously.

President: Peter Carter

Vice-President: Ray Dallaire

Past President: Jack Little

Secretary: Barry Walker

Treasurer: Gary Campbell

Directors: Alan Rusler

Arv Hardin

Bruce Swanson

David Winfield

John Mann introduced Edmonton Club member and guest speaker, **Jim Lepp**.

Jim joined Stelco's graduate training program at Hilton Works, Hamilton, Ontario in 1960 following his graduation from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in mechanical engineering. He left Stelco temporarily to join Premier Steel in Edmonton to develop North America's first mini mill, and returned to Stelco when it purchased Premier Steel. Jim spent the next 10 years in Stelco's Edmonton and Camrose operations. After a brief period on loan to the Newfoundland government to rationalize their steel mill, Jim spent 5 years in Quebec where he led the start-up of Stelco McMaster's steelmaking shop, and later oversaw Stelco's Quebec operations. Jim returned to Hilton Works to hold various senior operating positions in Ironmaking, Steelmaking, Utilities, and Maintenance. Prior to returning to his western roots in 1986, Jim was General Engineering Manager. Jim Lepp was appointed the first President of AltaSteel in Edmonton and retired after 40 years of steel-making business in May 2001.

Jim began his presentation by thanking us for inviting him to join this great club and for allowing him to present a vignette of Edmonton's history. It is a story about a revolution- a **Revolution in Steel!**

Edmonton's **AltaSteel** was the first steelmaker in North America and likely the entire world to use the combination of recycled steel scrap, electric furnaces, continuous casting and a small rolling mill to commercially produce steel. This innovative concept became known as a "**Minimill**" and now accounts for the majority of steel produced in North America.

In the 1950's and 60's a rising standard of living created a pressing need to recycle the obsolete cars, refrigerators and other products made from steel. Processes such as shredding scrap steel, remelting and refining were needed to make steel totally and infinitely recyclable. Visionaries in Edmonton saw the opportunity and boldly developed a concept of small regional steel mills. Using only recycled scrap steel as feedstock they would produce steel products everywhere including the growing inland communities-like Edmonton.

Gerry Heffernan had worked as a summer student in the scrap yard of a small steel mill in Vancouver and he had noted the rapid buildup of obsolete steel products on farms and at businesses. Gerry was inspired and began research in electric furnace steelmaking. He concluded that the process was capable of making steel from scrap and was further encouraged when he learned that

regional electricity grids had grown sufficiently robust to support the large electric furnaces needed for mass production. Heffernan convinced Edmonton's **Francis Winspear** to raise funding for a small steel mill in Edmonton. The tiny mill enjoyed some success but had major limitations with the casting of small ingots. The product quality was inferior and only low-grade such as concrete reinforcing rod could be produced. To survive and grow, the little mill needed a revolutionary development and that was a process to continuously cast steel. Gerry Heffernan's operations manager, **Len Gibson** had experience with continuous casting and understood the potential benefits. Heffernan and Winspear boldly made another huge investment and bet the company's future on overcoming technical difficulties.

Gibson recruited a team of three engineers including **Jim Lepp** and to gain experience they travelled to England, Europe and finally to Mexico where the process was at the prototype stage. The engineering team returned knowing enough about the remaining challenges to search for help. The oil patch community of highly skilled contractors, machine and fab shops and suppliers in the Edmonton area turned out to be a huge part of the solution.

First, the age-old problems of continuously casting liquid steel at 2000 degrees Celsius required completely redesigning the mould. The new design was a reciprocating water-cooled extruded copper mould perfected by trial and error using different models made by local machine shops. For lubrication to prevent the hot steel from sticking to the mould, **Canola oil** was chosen because of its uniquely high flash point and ability to resist breakdown at high temperatures.

Second, a mechanical system was needed to start the process by threading the machine with a dummy bar and then disconnecting it to provide continuous extraction of the strand of solidifying steel. The oil patch machine shops contributed ideas and prototypes to develop a simple design that was entirely reliable.

Third, a de-oxidizer was needed to start up the continuous caster. Aluminum was tried initially but the product of de-oxidation was alumina, a ceramic that remains solid at liquid steel temperatures and clogged the nozzles that direct the steel into the mould. Silicone was then used as a de-oxidizer and the first casting was a total success.

Success continued and, as predicted by research, continuously cast steel produced significantly improved quality. Many new products became possible and the yield of rolled product increased from 70% to 90% creating huge savings.

In 1962 the old ingot equipment was destroyed and the operation became totally reliant on continuous casting. With this move the Edmonton operation unknowingly gave birth to a revolution in steel. The process concept became known as the Minimill. During the startup phase of continuous casting the founders of the company sold the business to **Stelco**, a large integrated steel company. The founders went on to build many Minimills and Gerry Heffernan was eventually recognized as the father of the Minimill.

The AltaSteel plant currently processes 300,000 tons of scrap steel annually and employs 360 staff. Today, AltaSteel is now a major operating component of the mining products division of Arrium Ltd., an Australian company.

Tracy DesLaurier thanked Jim for a fabulous presentation. The winner of the Free Lunch draw was **Gord Robertson**.



FIRST POSTING

Ron Trant has applied for membership in our club. **Ron** and his wife **Theresa** reside at **14026 104 Avenue NW, T5N 0W6**. Their telephone number is **780-623-9606** and email address is ron.trant@investorsgroup.com Ron is a Financial Consultant with Investors Group and is proposed by **Ray Dallaire** and **Ari Hoeksema**.

FIRST POSTING

Jack Bowen has applied for membership in our club. **Jack** and his wife **Steffany** reside at **8 Elsinore PL NW**. Their telephone number is **780-777-5255** and email address is jbowen@telus.net Jack is a semi-retired Business Partner with Footprint Developments and is proposed by **Bob Bahniuk** and **Taras Chmil**.

President Jack Little welcomed 33 Gyros and three guests to the April 19th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **John Ross** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **Jim Lochhead** presented the Grace. We are pleased to acknowledge new member applicant **Ron Trant**. **Taras Chmil** introduced his two guests, **Larry Howard** and **Ross Cyr**.

Roger Russell introduced our guest speaker and club member **Ari (Dutch Hoeksema)**. Ari was born in Fort Macleod and owns and operates Home Water Systems, a water conditioning business. He has been a member of the International Shrine Clown Association for 40 years and is Past Potentate and founding member of Al Shamal Shriners. Ari was President of the Edmonton Gyro Club in 2011-12.

Ari began his presentation by explaining the difference in the approach used by the United States and Canada in establishing law and order in their respective western frontiers. Settlers in the U.S. moved west in the 1860's and 1870's to homestead land and had to deal with outlaws, whiskey traders and First Nations ahead of the rule of law. In the 1870's there were fur traders and missionaries and only a few settlers in Western Canada. However, whiskey traders had moved north from Fort Benton on the Missouri River in Montana to Fort Whoop Up at present day Lethbridge. These whiskey traders wanted furs and instead of exchanging blankets and cooking utensils, they traded whiskey to the First Nations people. The introduction of whiskey to the First Nations communities created many problems and resulted in violent behavior by the natives.

Reports of the violence in the West, and the threat that settlers from the United States would move north into Canada and take over reached the Canadian government. **In 1873, the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) was established** and in 1874, 300 NWMP troopers under Commissioner George Arthur French headed West from Fort Garry in Manitoba. The troop was entirely unprepared using horses that had been grain fed and could not easily forage on prairie grass.

They encountered many hardships on their way to Alberta including getting lost and the decision was made to acquire new horses and supplies from Fort Benton, Montana Territory.

Jeremiah (Jerry) Potts was born in **1840** at Fort McKenzie, downstream from present-day Fort Benton. His father was Andrew Potts, a Scottish fur trader and his mother was *Namo-pisi* (Crooked Back) a Blood of the Black Elk band. He was given the name Kyi-yo-Kosi (Bear Child), by his mother's people. While still a baby, Jerry's father was murdered by a Piikani who mistook the elder Potts for another trader that had cheated him. His mother returned to her people, leaving young Jerry behind with trader Alexander Harvey. Malnutrition left him with bowed legs and a stunted stature; neglect forced Potts to fend for himself and as a result he grew up quiet and independent.

Again, tragedy struck in his young life. His foster father died, but a kind trader named **Alexander Dawson** adopted Jerry, insisting the young boy be educated as much as possible. Dawson also taught Jerry the tricks of successful trading, taking the child along on excursions to teach him the business. Later, in his teens, Potts sought out his mother and lived in a traditional native manner.

Life on the frontier was harsh and dangerous and Potts carried two pistols in his gun belt — complimenting the Henry rifle which never left his side. Under his jacket, he always kept two smaller-bore pistols. On his leg was strapped a long-bladed skinning knife. He always kept a small gun inside a hide-away pocket, a practice that saved his life on several occasions. By the time Potts was twenty-five he had become a comparatively wealthy man through horse trading. The going rates for a good horse at the time ranged between \$75 to \$150 and his herd rarely averaged less than a hundred horses. Wealth has its privileges and Potts married into the Piikani tribe when he took two sisters, Panther Woman and Spotted Killer as his wives, fathering several sons and daughters.

In 1872, Potts moved to Fort Benton and carried on his horse trade. In the fall of 1874, Commissioner French and **Assistant Commissioner James Macleod** plus a few men of the North West Mounted Police arrived to replenish much-needed supplies — and hire Jerry Potts. The fresh supplies would ensure the force would get where it was going; and Jerry Potts would ensure that no Mountie ever got lost again. Their official mission was to travel to Whoop-Up country in Western Canada and shut down American whiskey trading posts.

From the outset he proved an invaluable addition to the NWMP who were unfamiliar with both the territory they were to police and the Indian and Métis inhabitants living there. The laconic plainsman soon gained the admiration and respect of the NWMP for his frontier skills, bravery, remarkable sense of direction, and his detailed geographical knowledge of the area.

He was never paid less than \$90 per month, quite a bit higher than the going rate for a guide, and three times a police constable's salary. He was fluent in English, Blackfoot and Crow, had a better than average ability in Cree (which he would speak only when necessary), and was passable in Sioux, Assiniboine and Algonquin.

In the fall of 1874 he arranged the first meetings between Assistant Commissioner Macleod, Indian leaders including **Crowfoot** (Isapo-muxika) and **Red Crow** (Mékaisto). Potts contributed to the friendly relations that quickly developed between the NWMP and the Blackfoot Indians by explaining to each the customs, etiquette, and concerns of the other, and by acting as interpreter.

Potts served as an interpreter for the treaty commission during the Treaty 7 talks in September 1877. His weakness in interpretation lay in his habit of brevity. Once, following a Blackfoot chief's extremely long, flowery, impassioned speech to a delegation of visiting officials who had arrived from Ottawa to sign a treaty with the Blackfoot people, Potts remained silent as if fully digesting the colourful language. Finally, when asked what the chief had said, the laconic Potts shrugged and replied, *"He says he's damned glad you're here."*

In 1881, Sitting Bull and his tribe crossed into Canada and Jerry Potts successfully negotiated their peaceful movement back into the United States.

During the early part of his 22 years with the NWMP, few major patrols were launched that were not led by Potts. Later, scouts he had trained lessened his duties, but he continued to play an important role in maintaining good relations with the Blackfeet and at the time of the North-West rebellion in 1885, he was influential in securing Blackfoot neutrality. His abuse of alcohol, coupled with tuberculosis by the 1890s, subsequently lessened his usefulness to the NWMP, and as the country became settled there was less need for his frontier skills. He continued to guide and scout for the force until his death of throat cancer on July 14, 1896. He was buried with full military honours at Fort Macleod, Alberta.

The day after his death, the *Macleod Gazette and Alberta Livestock Record* mourned the loss of the man who “made it possible for a small and utterly insufficient force to occupy and gradually dominate what might so easily, under other circumstances, have been a hostile and difficult country. . . Had he been other than he was. . . it is not too much to say that the history of the North West would have been vastly different to what it is.”

The members asked many questions of Ari and thanked him for a very entertaining presentation. The winner of the Free Lunch draw was **Bill Taylor**.



Jerry Potts

The GYRO Club of Edmonton Fund-Edmonton Community Foundation.

The fund was established in **April 2008** with a contribution of \$16,500 from the Club Benevolence Fund and an additional \$4000 was donated in April 2013. Our fund combined with the larger Lee Community Playspace Fund provides funding to enhance recreational and community building opportunities for children and their families through the development of community playgrounds and play spaces in the greater Edmonton area with priority given to low-income neighbourhoods.

The fund has continued to grow due to tribute donations and investment income.

Balance, beginning of 2015	\$34,966
Donations received	655
Net investment income	3,068
Grants	(\$1,399)
Operating expenses	(252)
Balance, end of 2015	\$37,039
Available to Grant in 2016	\$1,482

Gyro Bridge Windup April 2016

Another successful Bridge season ended with a wonderful celebration at the Highlands Golf Club on April 20th. Last year's winner, Jack Brown, was unable to attend so Ken Willan said Grace and presented the awards.

Shirley Larson won the trophy and a \$50 gift card with a season high score of 17,420. Other winners were:

Vicki Garbutt – 2nd high season score of 16,420; \$40 gift card

Chuck Gerhart – evening high man's score of 4910; \$25 gift card

Shirley Larson – evening high woman's score of 4620; \$25 gift card

Warren Garbutt (by draw) of the **Walter Yakimets** award aka "better luck next time"; \$10

After the meal, three rounds of bridge completed the evening with the winners being as follows:

Marlene Ramsey – high woman's score; \$20

Marty Larson – high man's score; \$20

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Terrie Ellis – last player to win a trick with the club 2; \$10

It was decided by vote to keep playing 4 rounds per night to allow more time to socialize. If any Gyro member would like to join the Bridge Club as either a regular or a spare, please contact **Ken Willan (780-434-1306)**.

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the Hockey Pool.

Game 19 March 28	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs. Ducks				
First	0 1	Ken Willan	Gayl Lepp	David Winfield
Second	0 2	M. Weisberger	D. McManus	Marilyn Nichols
Final	1 2	Mike Matei	Mike Matei	Unsold

Game 20 April 6	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs. Canucks				
First	0 0	John Mann	Bruce Swanson	Eileen Kuhl
Second	3 0	Beverly Russell	Mia Scornaienchi	Arlene Dagg
Final	6 2	David Burnett	Unsold	Sharon Matei

Thanks to Dick Nichols for another successful Hockey Pool Season!

'Fast Fred'

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Executive Officer Installation, University of Alberta, Faculty Club
11435 Saskatchewan Drive, Saturday Evening, April 30th**

Time: 6:00 PM for Dinner at 7:00

Cost: \$50.00 per person with cash bar

Dinner: You will enjoy a three-course dinner with a choice between two main entrees.

Parking: There is no charge for parking on Saturday nights-don't purchase a ticket!****

Surprises: there will be number of surprises but if we told you about them they wouldn't be a surprise!

Other: District Governor, **Alan Pentney will be in attendance.**

Contacts: David Burnett and Jack Little

GYRETTE Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club,

Tuesday, May 10th

Registration 11:30 am, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: **Stephanie Perilli**, Director of Fund Development, Edmonton Valley Zoo

Contact: Marlene Burnett

District VIII Convention, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, May 26-29, 2016

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Mixed Event

Gyros/Gyrettes, June 7th

Speaker: Anne Hall

Topic: Edmonton Commercial Grads Basketball Team

Contacts: Gerry Glassford and Cliff Revell

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, June 21st

Business Meeting: Budget Review and Bylaw Amendments

Contacts: Peter Carter, Ray Dallaire and Gary Campbell

GYRO International Convention, Red Lake (Mackenzie Island), Ontario

July 11th-17th, 2016

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday,

August 16th

Format: Modified Texas Scramble, 9 holes

Tee times: Commencing around 1:00 pm

Cost: TBA

As usual prizes are needed!

Contacts: Barry and Valerie Walker, Roger Russell

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Corn Roast, Tuesday Afternoon/Evening,

September 6th, Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40th Ave.

Time: Bocce 4:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00

Corn on the Cob, Chicken, Salad and Dessert

Cost: TBA

Contacts: Roger Russell, Barry Walker, David Burnett and friends



Friendship Rodeo



Gyro District VIII Convention At Fairmont Hot Springs Resort May 26 to 29, 2016

GYRO DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION - May 26 to 29, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: ____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (Res) _____ (Bus) _____

Email: _____

Name of Club: _____ District: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Please note accommodation if not at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort (**Phone 1-800-663-4979**)

Please specify any special food requirements/allergies:

REGISTRATION FEE (Canadian Funds but US is accepted – difference will be rebated):

\$ 299.00 (couple) \$150.00(single) \$ _____

Registration Fee Includes

- Dinner and Games Thursday
- Poker Run, Hospitality, Bocce, Dinner and Dancing Friday
- Business Meeting, Ladies Brunch on Saturday
- Hospitality, Banquet and Dance on Saturday evening
- Happy Trails Breakfast on Sunday

Golf Tournament at Riverside Golf Club - \$85.00 per Golfer (includes prizes and green fees)

Gyro Yes _____ No _____ Handicap _____ \$ _____

Partner Yes _____ No _____ Handicap _____ \$ _____

Do you require a cart? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have preferred Tee Time? _____

Poker Run Car Rally

Gyro _____ Partner _____

Bocce

Gyro _____ Partner _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Please make cheque payable to District VIII Gyro and mail cheque and this form to: Ken Baker, 59 Woodgreen Dr. SW, Calgary, AB T2W 4G6

Questions : Phone Ken at : 403-281-0920 or email : ken.baker65@gmail.com

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Camp Gyro Registration

Gyro International and District VII Convention 2016

Hosted by the McKenzie Island Club in Red Lake, Ontario

July 11-17, 2016

Gyro: _____ Gyrette: _____
Mailing Address: _____ City: _____
Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Gyro Club: _____ District: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Registration Fee

(Cheques payable to: The Gyro Club of McKenzie Island. U.S. Funds at par)

Early Bird (Reduced) until March 1, 2016
\$440.00 couple
\$220.00 single

After March 1, 2016
\$480.00 couple
\$240.00 single

All early bird registrations will be entered into a draw for an original Aboriginal Woodland painting.

Accommodation

- A block of rooms has been reserved at the Super 8 Red Lake at a reduced rate of \$120.00 per night.
- To reserve please contact the Super 8 Red Lake, Ontario at 807-727-8888 and ask for the Gyro rate.
- Includes complimentary continental breakfast, parking and internet.

Contact Karen Pace, our Travel Specialist who will assist you with all of your travel needs.
She will be coordinating charter flights into Red Lake at substantial savings.

1-800-465-3305

Submit Registration To:

Ted and Annwyl Shewchuk
Convention Chair
Box 1013
Red Lake, ON
POV 2M0
Ph: 807- 735-2801
Fax: 807- 735-2234
Email: campgyro@gmail.com

See you at Camp Gyro!