



THE GYROLOG THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

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Gyrolog

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Allan Douglas
Phone/Fax 433-5409

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The world of Gyro is a world filled with friends who are keen to share some of the most important insights that each has gleaned over the years. "So," says I (filled with the sense of importance that comes packaged with the title Gyrolog Editor – temporary though it may be), "I should share with my Gyro friends some of the great prognoses/insights generated by some thoughtful folks." Feel free to use them as you wish (albeit the authors would rather you not.

"Computers in the future may weight no more than 1.5 tons."
...Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of
science, 1949

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM, 1943

"But what is it good for?"
Engineer for Advance Computing Systems Division of IBM,
1968, commenting on the microchip.

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their
home."

Ken Olson, President, Chairman and founder of Digital
Equipment Corp., 1977.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody."
Bill Gates, 1981

Anyone have any other superb insights to share for the good of
Gyro?

President Walter, miming his predecessor, Dick Nichol, noted as he called the meeting to order, that it was "Another fine day in paradise!! And it was. All 31 folks present agreed fully with our President – to do otherwise would have seemed mutinous. In dulcet tones, **Larry Dobson**, led us in a boisterous round of Cherio and **Marty Larson** set us on a more somber path with a gentle Grace.

Joining us for lunch was a friend of **Marty's**, **Bill Taylor**. **Bill** had help the club as a volunteer at the Gyro Prostate Cancer

Research Golf Tournament and he was sufficiently intrigued by the Club that he came along today to learn more about Gyro. Welcome **Bill!!** We hope that you will come again.

Val Pohl introduce our guest speaker, **Karen Phillips**, and promised that we would learn much more about her and her interest in the world of autism later in the meeting.;

Birthdays

July is the month when **Tom Chambers** and **Harry Kocil** join our American friends in celebrating a birthday – they celebrate the birth of their nation while **Tom** and **Harry** celebrate the wonder of life, blue skies, good meals with friends, and family. Happy birthday, **Tom** and **Harry**.

Anniversaries

If you did not have the opportunity to wish the following couples a very happy anniversary, pick up the phone now and give them a call.

Don and Lorraine Assheton-Smith 44 years

Jack and Joyce Brown 5 years

Gordon and Eleanor Robertson 56 years

Bryce and Florrie Van Dusen 65 years

Barry and Val Walker 35 years

“Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years. That is what makes a marriage last – more than passion or even sex.” (Simone Signoret)

May this month be a month of celebration of your years together!!

Founders' Night

Dick Nichol reminded us that we will celebrate founders' Night on October 18th and that the celebration will be held in the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. **Marty Larson** will provide us a view into the history of the Gyro movement and our guest speakers will be Leigh and Aline McMillan who will tell us something of Life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Plan now to attend.

Ernie Siegel and his fellow team mates **Eric Spink** and **Mort Morter** reminded us that at the next meeting (July 19th) they

will introduce to us **Detective Russ Furmanuk** of the Edmonton Police Department. **Detective Furmanuk**, a 25 year veteran of the force, will tell us about some of the new developments that have been occurred in his area of policing.

Gyro/Gyrette Golf Scramble and BBQ

Barry Walker reminded us that this special annual event will be held next Tuesday, July 12th, at the Legends. The golf and BBQ costs of \$50 per person or the BBQ only of \$28.00 per person are due and payable. **Roger Russell** will guard the exit door to ensure that collections are completed in a timely and appropriate manner.

Report on Regina District VIII Convention

President Walter reported that the Regina Gyro convention went extremely well and that the entertainment provided by a group of Saskatchewan young dancers and singers (the Saskatchewan Express) were worth the price of the Convention alone. Nine representatives from our Club attended and enjoyed the programs provided by our Regina Gyro friends immensely.

Erik Braun of the Sherwood Park Gyro club was installed as our new District VIII Governor and a special vote of thanks to **Doug Aspeslet** and his Gyrette **Linda** was extended. Concerns at the District level for the future health of our District's small Gyro Clubs continues but our District membership of 483 is reasonably static and several clubs are showing positive growth – hurray!!! And thanks to all of those who continue to work hard on the membership committees. Third International Vice-President **Ab Nightingale** and his wife **Win** participated in this Convention. **Ab** is to be congratulated on his decision to visit every Club in District VIII during his “swing out west”. It took them a month of travel to accomplish this but it is the kind of commitment to gyro that will help our clubs and the Gyro movement to gain new strength. Many thanks, **Ab** and **Win**.

The Mysterious Disability called Autism

Val Pohl introduced our guest speaker, Karen Phillips, as one who has lived and nurtured her son through the terrifically difficult early days of diagnosis and his subsequent regimentation of special programs. Today Karen is the secretary of the Autism Society of the Edmonton area as well as the mother of a sixteen-year-old son who is considered a high

functioning autistic person. If you were to ask Karen what “autism” is she would provide you with many different definitions but perhaps the most telling one is that it means “ALONE”. The pamphlet she circulated tells us that autism is “. . . a type of pervasive developmental disorder.” Other autism spectrum disorders would include Asperger’s Syndrome, Rett’s Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder. Autism is a disorder found among very young children and principally among boys. These children seem entirely normal during the first 18 to 30 or more months then gradually they develop communication difficulties, have difficulty relating to others and forming social relationships principally because their communication skills are thwarted. They become highly routinized and are very resistant to change. About 1 in every 167 children are touched by disorders of an autistic nature.

What causes autism? At the present the causes are unknown but there may be a genetic predisposition and this combined with some types of food, etc. may trigger its onset. It is generally agreed that it is not caused by the physical or emotional environment of the child. This point was made sharply and clearly during the showing of a excellent video titled “Against All Odds” that featured a young family from the Cleveland area who had three autistic sons. Theirs was a story of suffering and pain but a love story of the highest order.

Can it be treated? **Karen** explained to us that important new developments have occurred in the area of treatment, treatment that is in the form of specialized educational programs. These take the form of applied behavioural techniques (linked to applied behavioural analysis). Although time and labour intensive, they have been shown to open the door to the larger world around the autistic child. The rate of success is in the 50% range (if one considers success to be defined by helping the youngster to the point where they can attend a school program). The “kicker” is that these applied behavioural programs are very expensive – approximately \$50,000 per year. Some provinces absorb these costs (including Alberta); others do not

Today, despite the extensive work that has been carried out by parents, teachers, researchers, doctors and therapists autism remains a puzzle. Everyday these children and their parents wake up to a world of mystery, a world that is filled with pain, challenge, stress, the unexpected, as well as a world of love,

caring, hope, and generosity. Yet it is a world where much of what we will see, do, experience we take for granted. The autistic child and the child's parent's cannot. On the front of the pamphlet given us by Karen there is a brief blurb. It reads: "I have autism I may not look different but I experience the world much differently than you do. Autism makes it difficult for me to communicate with you, and may cause me to have unusual behaviour.

I am doing my very best. Please be patient with me and with my caregivers who are trying to help me have a full and happy life."

Our thanks to **Karen** and others like her for the courage, caring and sensitivity. **Harry Kocil** expressed our thanks to Karen very poignantly. He reminded us that he, too, had helped a brother who struggled with difficulties during his life. Harry has a deep well of appreciation for caregivers like Karen. He was an ideal Gyro to extend our sincere appreciation. Our thanks to **Val Pohl, Harry Kocil and David McNaughton** for arranging this important presentation

Karen cut the Gyro deck and found that **John Stroppa** was to be awarded a free lunch.

The Races

Val Pohl reminded us that The Races will be a feature event in our September Gyro Calendar. The date: September 25th. Mark it down. Save your dollars. Prepare for an afternoon of fun.

A Parting Thought

A farmer asked his neighbor if he might borrow a rope. "Sorry," said the neighbor. "I'm using it to tie up my milk." "Rope can't tie up milk!" "I know," replied the neighbor, "but when a man doesn't want to do something, one reason is as good as another."

CHEERIO