



THE GYROLOG THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

President

John Plunkett
Res. 435-7011

FEBRUARY 2009

1st Vice-President

Leon Lubin
Res. 454-9712

Those celebrating their birthdays in February were **Bryce Van Dusen** on the 5th, **Dick Nichols** on the 8th, **Ken Willan** on the 9th and **Jack Ellis** on the 25th.

2nd Vice-President

Bill Taylor
Res. 430-0330

The February wedding anniversaries were **Sam Gruden** and **Bea McKenzie**, 18 years on the 14th and **Larry** and **Rosa Wang** 43 years on the 26th.

Imm.Past President

Jack Brown
Res. 434-0392

Our debonair **2nd Vice-President Bill Taylor** chaired the February 3rd luncheon meeting at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club as President John was away, undergoing surgery to attain a clearer outlook...on life? Just kidding John! We hope that your surgery went well.

Secretary

Barry Walker
Res. 475-0983

Treasurer

Mike Matei
Res. 930-1780

Golden throat **Larry Dobson** led us in a cheery rendition of *Cheerio*. 'Saint' **Ari Hoeksema** then asked the blessing, with assistance of a wee bit of Robbie Burns's poetry.

Directors

Bill Clarke
Res. 437-4678
Peter Carter
Res. 488-2403
Sam Gruden
Res. 488-5520
Ari Hoeksema
421-7776

Chairman Bill then led a Happy Birthday chorus for friend **Bryce Van Dusen**, celebrating his **94th Birthday** on the 5th of Feb. Bryce had an ear to ear smile!

Gyrolog Editor

Fred Schulte
Phone 434-0925

Mike Matei then reported that our club executive has decided that \$500 would be donated to each of 4 charities...Youth Emergency Shelter, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and the Center for Family Literacy. This \$2000 was available from the proceeds of last year's Hockey Pool that Dick Nichols so generously administers.

Chuck Gerhart Introduced our guest speaker, **Don Robinson, Executive Director of the Friends of University Hospitals**. Don explained that that *The Friends of University Hospitals* is a volunteer driven not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the well-being of patients, staff and the hospital community. Volunteers are integral to their activities and they utilize the services of over 160 volunteers weekly. Don specifically mentioned three of our club members who contribute their time and talent to this organization...**Chuck Gerhart, Walter Yakimets and Jack Ellis**. "Good on ya" guys!

Annual revenue of ~\$1.5 million is generated from 'The Friends' Gift Shop, atrium rentals, grants and donations.

How is this money used?

- 1) Provides cash awards to nursing units and clinical departments for special equipment to enhance patient care and comfort. Examples from 2008 are TVs for five Tuberculosis Isolation Rooms; Reno's to the Burn Ward Patient and Family Lounge (computers, TV, Lazy-Boy recliners); and Tilt-in-Space wheelchairs for patients who have spine/neck injuries and are unable to support themselves in an upright position.
- 2) Funds office costs associated with the hospital's Volunteer Services Group.
- 3) 'Arts in Healthcare' - management of the hospital's 1400 piece art collection. This artwork contributes to the hospital's international reputation for excellence and innovation in patient care.
- 4) Funds 'Artist on the Wards' program, a team of professional visual artists, writers, poets and musicians that offer opportunities for creative exploration to patients, visitors and staff. This program helps patients forget their physical discomfort and pain. The artists provide patients with the opportunity to re-capture joy, happiness and humour - emotions essential to healing.

Walter Yakimets extended words of appreciation to Don Robinson for sharing his time with us and for a very informative presentation.

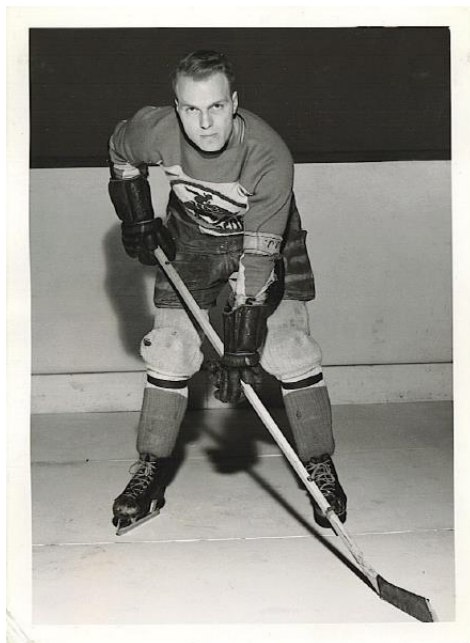
Thanks to **John Ross** for preparing these meeting notes.

A long-time member of the Gyro Club of Edmonton was recently recognized for his many accomplishments, and life-long involvement in the hockey arena. **Dave Duchak, 95, was elected to the Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame in January 2009.** Dave started his hockey career in Saskatchewan, and then later played with the famous Trail Smokeaters in British Columbia. Towards the end of his playing days, Dave moved to Calgary with the Calgary Stampeder's senior team. After a brief stint with the Stampeder's as a player, an injury cut short his playing days.

He coached and managed the Stampeder's for many years, and he also was very active in an executive position with the Calgary Buffalo Junior hockey team for many years. Dave was particularly elected to the Hall of Fame because he was the first president of the Alberta Junior Hockey League and served in that capacity for many years.

Dave is still active with the Gyro Club of Edmonton, and attends many of our regular meetings. He joined the Calgary Gyro Club in 1943 and later moved to Edmonton. He still is a keen follower of the game of hockey, and offers expert comments on NHL games of the day.

Story provided by **Marty Larson**



Dave Duchak

Photo supplied by Gary Duchak

It is with regret that we acknowledge the passing of **Harry Nash** on February 19th, 2009 at the age of 86 years. Harry joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton in 2001 and was sponsored by Bryce Van Dusen. Our condolences go to Harry's wife Erma and his surviving family members.

Harry was born in Tunbridge Wells, England in 1922 and at the age of 19 joined the RAF and served until 1946. Harry, his wife Peggy and his two sons, John and Stephen emigrated to Calgary in 1957. Harry moved to Edmonton in 1967 to work with ACME Novelty and in 1968 married Erma blending his family with hers. In 1970, Harry with partner Heinz Oldach founded what is known today as ABS Casinos and Alberta Bingo Supplies. Harry also had a passion for horses and was well known in Alberta for his expertise in the acquisition and development of racing stock.

Harry was always in great demand at our annual Northlands Racing event in September providing expert equine advice to our Gyro's and Gyrette's. Harry was a true friend and epitomized the spirit of Gyro friendship. He will be greatly missed!



Dick Nichols reported on the results of the Gyro Hockey Pool.

Game 11 February 7 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Detroit	Brook Weisberger	Valerie Walker	Morgan Power
First 0 5	Melissa McFerrin	Dan Warrack	Warren Garbutt
Second 0 6	Amber Peterson	Daniel Larson	Unsold
Final 0 8			

Game 12 February 14 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Los Angeles	John Plunkett	Jack Brown	Jack Brown
First 2 0	Bruce Foy	Marilyn Nichols	Rob Scranton
Second 2 1	Roy Bennett	Walter Yakimets	Roy Bennett
Final 3 2			

Game 13 February 24 Winners First Period Second Period Final

Oilers vs. Tampa	Laurie Newman	Tess Keddie	Georgina Plunkett
First 2 0	Peter Butler	Margaret Butler	Marg Foy
Second 3 2	Gerard Parker	Bruce Morter	Alan Rusler
Final 5 3			

The **Annual Valentines Party** was attended by 40 Gyro's, Gyrette's and guests at the Beverly Heights Community League Variety Show on February 20th. This was a departure from the last few years when we attended the Mayfield Inn Dinner Theatre. This variety show "Once upon a Mattress" was written, produced and directed by our own Ari ("Dutch") Hoeksema, who has done this for many years. The event raises money for the community league and is very popular in the community, using "home-grown" talent and selling out each year.

Thanks to Larry and Carol Dobson for organizing this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gyrette's Dinner Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, Tuesday, March 10th

Time: 6:00 pm

Speaker: Julia Petrov, Exhibitions Coordinator, Clothing and Textile Museum, University of Alberta

Committee for this event: Terrie Ellis, Carol Dobson, Norma Treacy and Marion Morstad

District VIII Interim Meeting, Fairmont B.C., March 13 to 15

Hotel Reservations: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Regular Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, March 17

Elections Night, Edmonton Petroleum Club, 6 PM, April 21

Executive Officers Installation, Faculty Club, U of A, 6 PM, May 5

International & District IX Convention, San Diego, California, June 8-14

Co-Hosts: Black Lake and Fresno

District VIII Convention, Cranbrook B.C., September 17 to 20