

Jan. 10, 1997

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Elaine** and I would like to take advantage of the first Gyrolog of 1997 to wish all Gyros and Gyrettes our best wishes for your happiness and success in the new year. In 1997 we will have neither the challenge nor the success that the International Convention afforded the Edmonton Club last year. However, we do have a series of Gyro, Gyrette and mixed functions that will provide abundant opportunities for enriching friendships over the year.

One important step is for Gyros to update our policy for benevolence so that we agree what our priorities are, and so that we can respond to requests within that framework. January 21 will be an important date for this, so please try to attend that meeting and give us the benefit of your views.

The second area that I want to address is to be more attentive to the timelines of our meetings in order to respect the pressures on those who must return to work at 1:30p.m. We will start our meetings promptly at 12:00 p.m. and will manage the agenda so that we have time to hear our guest speakers, have a short question and answer period, and be finished by 1:30 p.m. I will look forward to your support in making this work.

May 1997 be personally rewarding to all of you.

### January 7th Meeting

Some of our "snowbird" fellow Gyros had flown south but a mild Tuesday the 7th brought out a good attendance for our first meeting in 1997. **President Allan** called the meeting to order. An above average "Cheerio" was lead by **Larry Dobson** and our **Retread** said the blessing, **Rev Wm Graham** arrived from his physiotherapy session in time to compliment **Retread** for his good effort (after several of his Gyro friends had accused **Bill** of hiding out until Grace was said.

**Larry Dobson** introduced his son **Glen** as his guest. We were very pleased to have you with us, **Glen**.

Belated birthday wishes go to **John Ross** and **John Stroppa** who celebrated that august event on January 2nd. Best wishes were also extended to **John Tartar** whose birthday as January 4th. Many happy returns to the "three Johns" from all of us.

**Bert Boren** reported that **Dave Duchak** is recovering from his recent medical

problem and hopes to be present for our next meeting. We look forward to having you back with us, **Dave**.

This is the second and final posting for **Norman (Art) Meidinger**. **Art** and his wife, **Sheila**, live at 100 Hearthstone Place (Phone 438-0025) and have been proposed for membership by **Gordon Robertson** and **Mort Morter**.

**Bob Lippe** presented the hockey pool results for Games 6, 7 and 8. They are as follows:

## GYRO HOCKEY POOL

	DATE Dec. 21st	TEAMS	New York Rangers (3)	at	Montreal (2)
FIRST PERIOD		G. Dunphy			
(\$10.00)		Bill Agnew			
SECOND PERIOD		Derrick Briggs			
(\$15.00)		Linda Parenteau			
FINAL SCORE		Eric Mundy			
(\$25.00)		Wendy Agnew			
	DATE Dec. 28th	TEAMS	Chicago (4)	at	Toronto (5)
FIRST PERIOD		Elaine Tomniuk			
(\$10.00)		Dennis Walberg			
SECOND PERIOD		Geoff Armistead			
(\$15.00)		Breanne Jackson			
FINAL SCORE		Derrick Briggs			
(\$25.00)		Linda Parteneau			
	DATE Jan 4th	TEAMS	New York (1)	at	Montreal (3)
FIRST PERIOD		Mike Lacarriere			
(\$10.00)		Owen Cornish			
SECOND PERIOD		Daniel Carson			
(\$15.00)		Dave Palmer			
FINAL SCORE		Gord Robertson			
(\$25.00)		Ryan Cunningham			

## GUEST SPEAKER

**Larry Dobson** was pleased to introduce a good news, a success story, to us as a start to our new year. He did this by introducing us to **Ursula Danasch**, a member of the Canadian Wildlife Services of Environment Canada and an internationally known wildlife biologist. **Ursula** has been with the CWS for over 20 years during which time she has worked to reduce the number of species on the endangered list. The Peregrine Falcon has been on this list for many years, and indeed had virtually disappeared as a species found in the USA. It is this bird that has been **Ursula's** major concern and it was the story of the recovery of this species that was the focus of her talk and the feature of her many slides and her demonstration model.

The Peregrine Falcon is a bird of prey and has very few natural enemies. Situated as it is, at the top of the food chain, the falcon concentrates toxic materials which are found in the food of those creatures that form the falcons prey. Typical among these are waterfowl and waterfowl feed on numerous plants that concentrate such substances as DDT that, for many years, was poured onto the land to control pests. One of the side effects of the DDT is to alter the falcons blood chemistry such that it can no longer lay down hard calcium shells for its eggs. The result of this failure was that the mortality rate in unhatched chicks soared to extraordinarily high levels. The falcons could no longer replace themselves and mating pairs dropped dramatically. Ursula explained that their strategy was to capture some of the remaining mating pairs, hold them in specially prepared pens, feed them clean, nutritious food, remove their eggs after 7 days of natural incubation (a critical period required for the hatching process the reason for which is yet to be explained by wildlife scientists). They even found that it was not critical for the falcons to do the initial setting of the eggs so they recruited non-threatened species to perform this act while the peregrine falcon could get on with the crucial task of laying healthy eggs. So successful has this program been that CWS has been able to release 1600 birds across Canada and they are now able to downsize their recovery program. It is their belief that changes in the laws of most nations vis-a-vis the use of DDT and similar pesticides coupled with the recovery programs for the falcons themselves will enable the species to thrive once again. While this program has been a Canadian success story, other nations of the world have also contributed in special ways and still others are moving in positive directions with respect to laws governing the use of toxic substances.

**Ursula**, after an interesting Question and Answer period, was warmly thanked by **David Burnett**.

**Roger Russell** won the draw for the lunch but wondered aloud why he had missed out on the hockey pool.

## A NIGHT AT THE LANES

**John Plunkett** and his team assembled a wonderful night of bowling, bingo and Olympism (with apologies to Juan Antonio Samaranch and a few tips for Bill

Smith and his fellow Councillors). When the evening drew to an end, **Allan Warrack**, adding a light touch of home spun humour, presented awards to **Shirley Larson** and **John Stroppa** for the high mens' and womens' singles. The winners of the closely contested Bingo event were **John Plunkett, Allan Douglas, Jean Warrack, Ellen Edwards**, and **Pat Rasko**. **Natalie** and **Ed Edlund** were the respective Olympic gold medalists, winners who fiercely battled their way to the podium by dint of superlative hand-eye coordination while placing their bodies in positions that would have been the envy of Nadia Comenecch. Well done!!! It was especially nice to see our friends **Marcia Larson** and **Pat Rasko**. **Pat**, remember, was instrumental in beginning this special Gyro/Gyrette bowling event. We hope that we can continue to share this event with them.

### SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

**President Allan** has decreed that our next meeting, which will be held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club on January 21st, will be a business meeting. We have many issues to sort our way through including the matter of Club investments, and **President Allan** and his executive committee would appreciate a good turn out to maximize input and to provide guidance in dealing with many of the issues that make our club "tick".

### A VALENTINE'S EVENT

We are planning a combined Gyrette and Gyro Valentine luncheon for February 12th. This special tribute to love and companionship will be held at 12:00 noon in the Mayfair Gold and Country Club and the organizers will be in touch with everyone over the course of the next week or two in order to establish attendance. We expect the cost for the lunch and associated elements to be \$15.00 per person. If you wish more information or have suggestions for the party, call **Allan Douglas** at 436-5903 or **Gerry Glassford** at 430-7108. Those who need a ride are asked to make their request known so that we can make appropriate arrangements. As we approach this celebration of love, the words of Emmet Fox take on a special meaning: "There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal; no door that enough love will not open; no gulf that enough love will not bridge; no wall that enough love will not throw down; no sin that enough love will not redeem...." If we can love enough we will be the happiest and most powerful beings in the world. Plan to come and share this celebration of love.

### COMING EVENTS

January 21st (Tuesday)	Our usual Tuesday luncheon meeting will be held and the Mayfair and will be devoted to business of the Club.
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- January 28 to February 2nd      International Interim, St. Augustine, Florida.
- Feb. 4th      Tuesday Luncheon - Mayfair Golf and Country Club
- Feb. 12th      Valentine's Party - a special Gyrette and Gyro Luncheon at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club. Call Gerry Glassford (430-7108) or Allan Douglas (436-5903) for information.
- March 3, 1997      Mark your calendars, Bocci lovers.
- March 14th to March 16th      District VIII Interim Meeting at Fairmont. Please note that the hotel will only provide the reduced room rate if your reservation has been made by January 14th. If you plan to attend, book soooooon.
- May 3rd      Quad Club Installation (tentative date)
- June 5, 1997      Golf and BBQ at the Red Deer Golf Club
- July 15-20th      International and District I Convention - Holiday Inn Lakeside, Cleveland, Ohio (see Gyroscope for more detailed information).
- August 7-10th      District VIII Convention, Nelson, B.C.

### **NEW YEAR'S WISHES FROM YOUR GYRO SCRIBE**

Your snoopy Scribe found each of you reticent to share when asked about your New Year's resolution - so forget about slander and libel actions if you don't agree with these.

- |                 |                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bill Agnew      | that Gyros everywhere develop a sweet tooth.                                                                           |
| Gunnar Anderson | that all of his accounts turn out to be as positive as those of the 1996 International and District VIII convention    |
| Roy Bennett     | that his skills as a cutting horse rider improve to the level of touring professionals so that he can join the circuit |
| Bert Boren      | that Gyros cut down his workload by becoming more healthy                                                              |
| David Burnett   | that some family member or friend will one day buy him a Gyro lunch                                                    |
| Owen Cornish    | to be thankful for a lawyer son-in-law when dealing with Gyros                                                         |
| Larry Dobson    | to give most of those "Cheerio" song leaders a few singing lessons                                                     |

Allan Douglas	not to be so tolerant of Gyros who remark about "tallness"
David Duchak	to spell off Bob Lippe from having to watch the Toronto Maple Leafs on Saturday nights
Ed Edlund	to develop a more infectious giggle
Jack Ellis	that all our new oil and gas finds be little ones
Ron Ewoniak	that retirement will bring sunshine and warm temperatures
Andy Friderichsen	to learn his neighbor's names when his days as a nomad are over
Gerry Glassford	to learn to decipher Owen's writing
Stewart Graham	to continue to set an example of proper decorum for these Gyro rowdies
Rev John Dowd	to find something positive (for his church sermons) at our noon meetings
Rev Bill Graham	to show more tolerance for those fellow Gyros who are as irreverent as he would like to be
Ivan Ivankovich	that our regular Tuesday meetings be moved to the shores of our mountain lakes so that we might all enjoy the beauty of our land
Victor Jagoldas	to make "Fred Astaires" of all and sundry (i.e., the halt and the lame and his Gyro friends)
Marty Larson	to be nicer to Gyrette Shirley when she is his bridge partner
Dan Lawton	to hear and share more good jokes
Dick Mandlis	to remember always that the really fine gem of his wife is Marion
Mike Matei	to be even nicer to his "boss", one SLM
Al McClure	that he have a chance to enroll in the coaching certification program at the U of A so that he can coach better at curlarama
Mort Morter	to stop winning so many hockey pool draws
Dick Ogilvie	that his wife, Margaret, return from Reno a major winner
John Pedden	less golf and more profits at our Golf Scramble/BBQ
John Plunkett	that God answer his nightly prayer "God give me grace to bowl as score, so high that even I, when speaking of it afterwards may never need to lie."
Gord Rennie	that someone answer his perennial question: "How did I, as Editor-in-Chief, end up assembling such a motley crew?"
Gord Robertson	that he find an antidote to the thirst that develops from licking all those envelope flaps for every Gyrolog mailout
John Ross	that during 1997 he will find other ways to be more friendly
Roger Russell (PYS)	it will be a struggle but he find a way to admit to not being poor or young - just once

There are more resolutions to come and we promise to print them but it will have to be in our next edition - Gord has decreed "No 'Log over three pages."



A  
FRATERNITY  
OF  
FRIENDSHIP

