



# ***THE GYROLOG***

**THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON**

**Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921**

**President-**[Bruce Swanson](#), **Past President-**[Ray Dallaire](#),  
**1st Vice-President-** [David Winfield](#), **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President-**[Chuck Gerhart](#)  
**Secretary-**[Barry Walker](#), **Treasurer-**[Gary Campbell](#),  
**Directors-** [Tracy DesLaurier](#), [John Mann](#), [Leon Lubin](#), [Len Evenson](#)  
**Database Administrator-**[John Ross](#), **Gyrolog Editor-**[Fred Schulte](#)  
**Club Website:** [www.edmontongyroclub.com](http://www.edmontongyroclub.com)

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## **OCTOBER 2018**

Those celebrating their birthdays are [Gord Robertson, 93 years on the 2<sup>nd</sup>](#), [Ken Korchinski](#) on the 26<sup>th</sup>, [Mike Matei](#) on the 28<sup>th</sup> and [Doug Armstrong](#) on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are [Marty and Shirley Larson, 58 years on the 8<sup>th</sup>](#); [Tony and Care Mazzuca](#), 48 years on the 10<sup>th</sup> and [Gerry and Alice Glassford](#), 61 years on the 12<sup>th</sup>.



Life can either be accepted or changed. If it is not accepted, it must be changed. If it cannot be changed, then it must be accepted.

— *Winston Churchill* —

AZ QUOTES

**Rick Craddock, President of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club** welcomed 29 of their members and 20 Gyros from the Edmonton Club for the Second Annual Joint Bocce Ball Tourney held at the Italian Canadian Seniors Centre on Wednesday evening October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The singing of Cheerio and the Toast to the Queen were embraced enthusiastically by the members. **Augie Annicchiarico** presented the Grace in Italian.

Three bocce courts were quickly occupied by mixed teams from both clubs with a time limit of twenty minutes per game. Two rounds of bocce were completed and then we were treated to a three-course dinner consisting of Penne Pasta, Caesar Salad, Veal Cutlets followed by Tiramisu Dessert. **Gord Robertson**, a 29-year member of the Edmonton Club was given a candle on his cake to celebrate his **93rd birthday on October 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The games continued at 8:30 pm and the final battle between Team 10 (A Pool)- **Sid Slade, Rikke Dootjes, Ron Ramsey** and Team 6 (B Pool)- **Milt Lanes, Lloyd Wilson, John Ross, Fred Schulte** finished at 10:30 pm.

**Well done Team 10 for winning the club trophies.**

**Thanks to Augie Annicchiarico and Mike Matei** for organizing this event.



Photo: Scott Brisbin

Sid Slade

Ron Ramsey

Rikke Dootjes



*"Have you tried opening the back and emptying the pencil shavings?"*

John Caldwell for Readers Digest

**President Bruce Swanson** welcomed 33 Gyros, Gyrettes and one guest from the Sherwood Park Gyro Club and 43 Gyros and Gyrettes from the Edmonton Gyro Club to the **Annual Founders Night** celebration at the Faculty Club on October 16<sup>th</sup>. **Bill Taylor** led the singing of Cheerio and **John Ross** presented the Grace.

Two birthdays were recognized, **John Williams** from the Sherwood Park Club and **Jo-Anne Lubin** from the Edmonton Club.

**Chuck Gerhart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President** of the Edmonton Gyro Club introduced our first guest speaker, **Fred Schulte**.

Fred was born and raised in Calgary, attended the Universities of Alberta and Calgary and graduated from Calgary in 1968 with a BA in Geography.

He moved to Edmonton in 1968 and started work with the provincial government, Alberta Agriculture and then Alberta Environment in 1971. Over a period of 32 years, Fred worked in the areas of river-basin planning, land reclamation, environmental assessment, enforcement and air and water quality monitoring. He retired from the provincial government in 2001. From 2003-2007, Fred was a Consultant to Alberta Energy on regulatory reform and oil sands public consultation.

Fred has had a passion for running, having completed 17 half and 12 full marathons since 2003. Full Marathon No. 12 was in Boston on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at age 70. **He retired from running in March 2018, after clocking 23,000 kms** across North America. Fred is currently keeping fit by road bicycling and stand-up paddle boarding.

Fred and Paulette have been married for 50 years, have two daughters, Margo and Jill and are proud grandparents of five, aged 19 to 5 years.

**Fred joined the Gyro Club of Edmonton in 1994**, sponsored by **John Ross** and **Allan Warrack**. Fred was President in 2006-07 and Editor of the Gyrolog since 2008.

## The Founders of GYRO

Three young college friends from the Cleveland, Ohio area, **Paul Schwan**, **Clarence (Gus) Handerson** and **Ed Kagy** wished to continue their friendship after graduation in 1911. They invited a few additional friends and established the first Gyro Club in 1912.

**Paul Schwan**, the true instigator of GYRO had a strong desire to make the world a better place to live through friendship. Unfortunately, he died during the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 at the age of 28.

**Gus Handerson** was the cheerleader of the club with his push, pep and drive and practical leadership skills.

**Ed Kagy**, the affable stalwart, was the Secretary Emeritus of Gyro from 1912-23 and established the first club bulletin called the Gyroscope in 1918. He was a life-long contributor and employee of Gyro until his death in 1960 at the age of 71.

By 1917, the first five club's consisting of Cleveland, Chicago, Buffalo, Cincinnati and Philadelphia held their first Convention. Toronto chartered the first Canadian Club in 1919.

## **The Gyro Club of Edmonton – Early History**

The formation of a Gyro Club in Edmonton was first talked about by **Reg Henry** (who became the Club's first President) and **Harry Fuller** (the first Secretary).

An organizational meeting was held at the Hudson's Bay Building in April 1921. At this meeting, the plan and idea of a Gyro Club was fully discussed, and the formation of the Gyro Club of Edmonton was decided upon. 23 men were in attendance.

**Chartering of the new club took place on Friday, July 29, 1921** at the Macdonald Hotel. Vancouver Club President, Rowe Holland was the Installing Officer. The celebration was a gala affair complete with a gourmet meal and orchestra. Edmonton Mayor David Duggan delivered the welcome address.

Representatives from the local Rotary and Kiwanis were present to wish the young Gyro organization long life and prosperity. A toast to these "sister" clubs was delivered by charter member Nelles Buchanan.

**The annual club membership fee was set at \$7.50.** The **age limit** for club members was set at **35** but on March 13, 1924 that was **increased to 40**. At this stage of development, the Club did not want two or more members from the same type of business occupation. The intent apparently was to extend the membership of GYRO to every walk of life. The rapid growth of the Club by 1928 to 95 members resulted in the scrapping of the age limit.

Edmonton was the **18<sup>th</sup> club chartered into Gyro**. Four other clubs already existed in Canada: Toronto 1919, Vancouver and Winnipeg 1920 and Victoria 1921. Following Edmonton, the Calgary (21<sup>st</sup>) and Regina (23<sup>rd</sup>) clubs also formed in 1921.

So, who were these 32 men who attended the Charter meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1921? These were young men who represented a broad profile of the business community. Auto distribution, engraving, women's wear manufacturing, journalism, sand and gravel, charter accountancy, medicine, life insurance, outdoor advertising, wholesale footwear, wholesale drugs, clothing manufacturing and investments.

One of the first things to come before the club was the "Objective". On August 9<sup>th</sup>, only 11 days after receiving their charter, it was decided to provide **Playgrounds for Children**.

A little background is important here. Edmonton owned twenty-two public parks prior to the First World War. Only two had playground equipment: one on an old school ground and one on old hospital grounds.

Before the local Gyro Club appeared, supervised playgrounds in Edmonton were practically unheard of and children usually played unsupervised in the streets and outdoors. A lack of safe space to play emerged among public concerns as Edmonton expanded. Getting children off the streets was a rising concern mobilized by child traffic fatalities and drowning accidents in the North Saskatchewan River.

The City of Edmonton provided surplus land for the playgrounds and the GYRO members did the rest: landscaping, providing the equipment and painting. Full-time supervisors were hired, and a committee appointed to check the playgrounds periodically.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1922 the first playground at Patricia Square was opened. In 1981, this park was renamed Giovanni Caboto in deference to the large population of Italian descendants now living in the area.

Funding for the playgrounds was raised by holding annual Gyro Carnivals on the streets of downtown Edmonton which proved to very popular. The Club purchased their own “wheels of chance” and other carnival equipment.

Eight additional Gyro playgrounds were built in the 1920's, 30's and 1940's. By the late 1940's, the Edmonton Club found it difficult to raise the funds to operate and supervise these playgrounds. The City of Edmonton Recreation Commission assumed sole responsibility for operating these playgrounds.

**The Edmonton Club held its first Founders Night celebration on October 15, 1923.** The celebration concluded with the singing of Cheerio.

A new Gyro club called **Edmonton Crossroads** was sponsored in **1957**, followed by the **Sherwood Park Gyro Club in 1975**. Then in 1992, the three existing clubs jointly sponsored the fourth Edmonton area club, **St. Albert**.

So, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Reg Henry, Harry Fuller and the other 30 charter members, for founding our long-lasting Gyro friendship clubs in the Edmonton Region.

**Rick Craddock, President of the Sherwood Park Gyro Club** introduced their guest speaker, **Sid Slade**.

Sid was born in the rural Maritimes and in 1964 at the age of 19 joined the RCMP. He was posted to the Vancouver area from 1966-70 where he met and married Sharon in 1970. Sid and Sharon moved to Prince Edward Island in 1970 and then spent three years in Regina. They then



returned to British Columbia. In 1989, the Slades moved to Edmonton and in 1996, Sid retired from the RCMP in Sherwood Park.

Sid is a real golfer with a handicap of nine! In **2009-10** he was **District VIII Secretary-Treasurer**.

Sid advised that their club celebrated their 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on October 5<sup>th</sup>. There are still four charter members in the club, **Augie Annicchiarico, Terry Bajer, Rikke Dootjes and John Williams**. Five Past District Governors are members of the club, **Keith Bradley, Don Greig, Erik Braun, Bernie Kropp and Jim Malott**.

Sid indicated that the handshake dates to Medieval times where outstretched hands demonstrated there were no weapons and that friendship and cooperation were desired.

The Sherwood Park Gyro Club does not raise funds for charitable purposes but holds an annual auction to pay for their dues. The club presently holds 24 meetings per year including July and August. The membership organizes a lot of activities and many of the events involve the ladies. There are presently 41 members and two, new member applicants. Ten of our members have 25 years of membership and six have 40 years or more years.

The Club for sixteen consecutive years (1999-2015) had members involved in the District VIII Executive.

**Chuck Gerhart** introduced the second speaker from the Edmonton Club, **David Burnett**.

David began his career in Edmonton with Byers Transport Limited as their Controller. Pacific Western Airlines later acquired Byers which allowed the shipment of goods to Yellowknife by truck and then transport with Hercules aircraft to most Arctic communities. In 1973, Northern Transportation Company Limited (NTCL) approached David and he joined the company. In 1975 he was appointed Vice-President

of Finance, Executive Vice-President in 1979 and became President and Chief Operating Officer in 1986. NTCL was a Crown Corporation but operated like a private company with a fleet of tugs and barges that serviced vast areas of Northern Canada.

The Conservative government under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney privatized NTCL and it was purchased by two northern aboriginal companies in 1987. The beneficial shareholders were the Inuit of Nunavut and the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic. David was **President of the new company, NorTerra Inc.** from its inception to his retirement in 1999.

In 2000, he was appointed to the **Athabasca University Governing Council** and served as Vice-Chair from 2002-2004 and **Chair from 2004-2006.**

In 1973, David was invited by **Marty Larson** to attend a meeting of the Edmonton Gyro Club. David liked the club and the members he met and was officially inducted into the club on June 11, 1973. He served as a Director, then as President in 1988-89 and District VIII Secretary Treasurer in 2002-03. He received the **Award of Merit** for Outstanding Service to Gyro in 2001.

David indicated that there are four kinds of people. Those who make things happen, those who watched things happen, those who wonder what happened and those who didn't know that anything happened! Our club has existed for 97 years and we have had 96 different Presidents. The only exception was Thomas Brown who served two terms from 1938-1940. Mr. Gyro, **Gordon Rennie** said that "You will get out of Gyro what you put into Gyro". Our 61 members are very diversified and cover a large spectrum of former and current occupations.

We are very grateful for our sponsorship by Marty Larson. There was a connection right from the beginning, both Shirley and Marlene were nursing buddies from Saskatchewan. The involvement of our ladies has enhanced the club.

The absence of fundraising requirements has allowed each club to develop their own identity. The annual District and International Conventions have strengthened our Gyro commitment. **Where else can you find so many friends!**

**Thanks to Rick Craddock and Chuck Gerhart for organizing a very special joint Founders Night!**

**“Fast Fred**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **CURLARAMA 2018, Banff, Alberta, November 2-4<sup>th</sup>**

Accommodation: The Voyager Inn

Cost: \$265 per curler, \$210 per non-curler and \$120 supplement for single room

Host Club: Stampede City

<http://district8.gyro.ws/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Curlarama-2018-entry-form.pdf>

**The deadline for booking rooms at the Voyageur Inn is October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Contact: Dale Green [Dale@dalegreen.com](mailto:Dale@dalegreen.com)

### **Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Speaker: **Lauren Farnell**, Marketing and Communications Director, Grey Cup Festival 2018

Topic: Grey Cup Week in Edmonton

Team Leaders: Tony Mazzuca and Dunc Mills

### **Gyrette Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Time: Registration 11:30, Luncheon 12:00 noon

Cost: \$30 plus \$2:00 parking

Speaker: **Monica Robson**

Topic: “Home for Hospice”

Team Leaders: Marion Boyd, Eileen Kuhl, Cathy Johnson

### **Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Faculty Club, November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Speaker: **Alex Prior**, Conductor

Topic: Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

Team Leader: John Boyd

### **Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Christmas Party, Riverview Room, Shaw Conference Centre, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Team Leaders: Jack Little and John Mann



**A World-Class Exposition!**



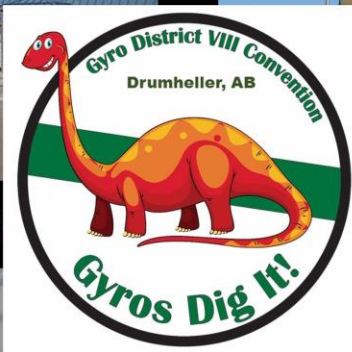
**Hoo Doos and Badlands!**



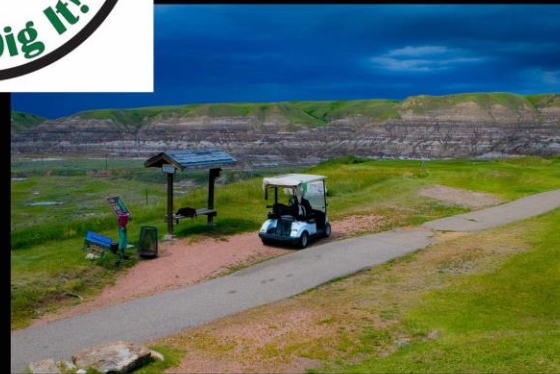
**No Hassle Facilities**



**Roar with the Gyros!**



**Last Chance Saloon - Yahoo!**



**Golf with the Dinosaurs!**

**Gyro District VIII Convention**

**Drumheller, Alberta**

**May 23 - 26, 2019**