



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.15, 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, Jamie Fleming, Tracy DesLaurier, Tony Mazzuca
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

JUNE 2015

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Warren Garbutt** on the 9th and **Tony Mazzuca** on the 11th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Ray and Donna Dallaire**, 36 years on the 2nd; **Ken and Barbara Willan**, 49 years on the 4th; **Walter and Kay Yakimets**, 56 years on the 6th; **Roger and Janet Russell**, 55 years on the 11th; **Larry and Carol Dobson**, 48 years on the 17th; **Cliff and Kathryn Revell**, 45 years on the 18th; **Ron and Marlene Ramsey**, 55 years on the 24th and **Jack and Sylvia Little**, 46 years on the 28th.

SECOND POSTING

Bohdan (Bob) Bahniuk has applied for membership in our club. **Bob** and his wife **Hanya** reside at **13211- 26 Street NW, T5A 4H1**. Their telephone number is **780-473-0846** and their email address is [**BohdanBahniuk@yahoo.ca**](mailto:BohdanBahniuk@yahoo.ca) **Bob** is semi-retired, does business development for Bob Cat Measurement and is proposed by **Sheldon Weatherby** and **John Ross**.

FIRST POSTING

Jim Lepp has applied for membership in our club. **Jim** and his wife **Gayl** reside at **412 Tory Point, NW, T6R 3C8**. Their telephone number is **780-430 6462** and their email address is jinglepp@telusplanet.net **Jim** has retired as President and CEO of AltaSteel Ltd. in Edmonton. He is proposed by **Chuck Gerhart** and **John Ross**.

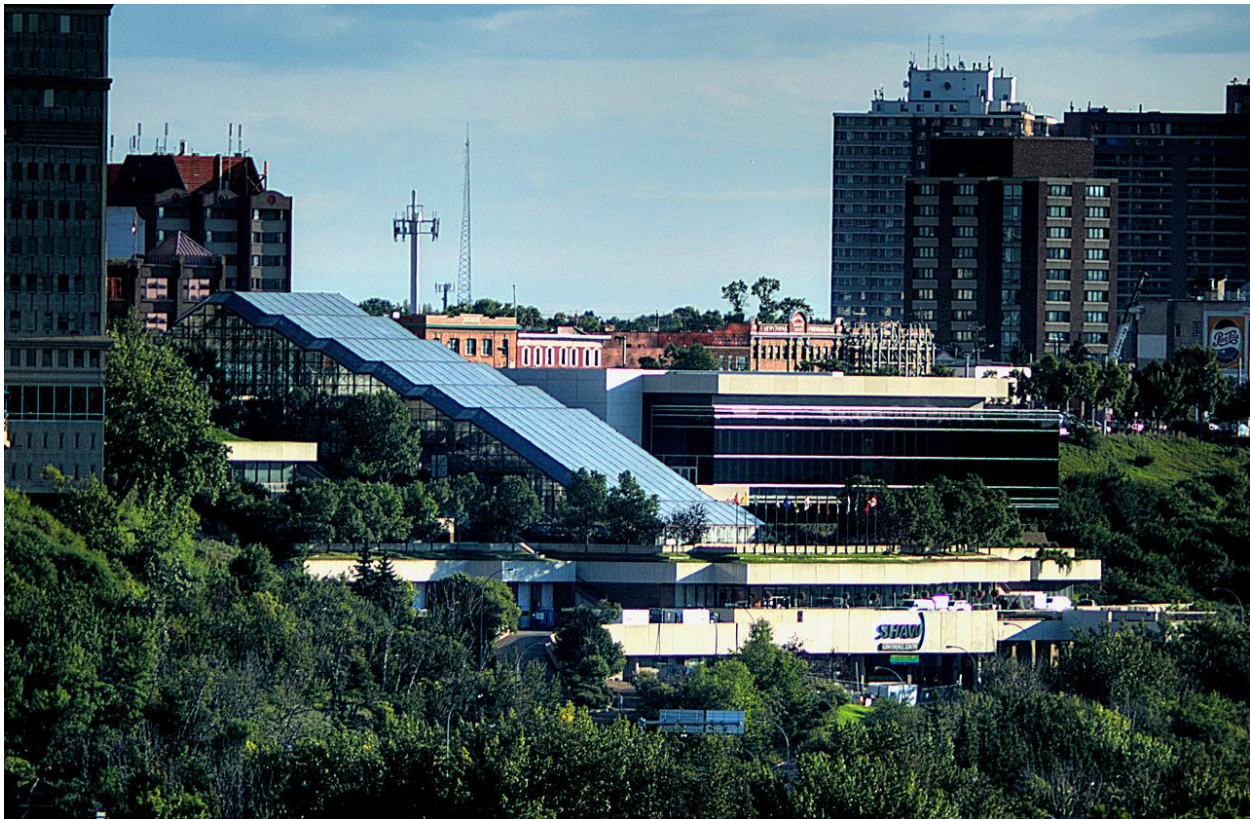
President Jack Little welcomed 35 Gyros and three guests to the June 2nd luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Roger Russell** led the group in the singing of Cheerio and **David Burnett** presented the Grace. **Ray Dallaire** welcomed his guest **Ron Trent**.

Bruce Foy introduced our guest speakers from the **Shaw Conference Centre**. **Michael O'Mara** started his career at age 15 in the hospitality field as bus boy at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in 1986. He worked as a Waiter/Bartender during his university years at the Inn on 7th, Jekyll and Hyde Pub and the Under the Boardwalk Night Club from 1989-1993. He then returned to the Mayfield Inn from 1993 to 2000 where he held various positions ranging from Banquet Captain to Trade Centre Manager. In 2002, Michael joined the Shaw Conference Centre as Banquet Manager and in 2005 was promoted to Sales Manager, the position he holds today.

Sergio Teixeira is a native of the Azores Islands off the coast of Spain and entered the entertainment business at the age of 15. Sergio joined the Shaw as Client Services Manager in 2003.

Sergio advised that the Shaw was built on the site of an old coal mine adjacent to Jasper Avenue. It opened in 1983 at a cost of \$82 million and is equivalent to a 10 story office building in height. The facility is owned by the City of Edmonton through an umbrella arrangement under Economic Development Edmonton and is also associated with Edmonton Tourism.

Michael O'Mara spoke of "The Edmonton Advantage" where we enjoy on average 280 days a year of sunshine. There are 800 hotel rooms within a three minute walk and 3500 hotel rooms downtown. Three new hotels are under construction presently. The Shaw is blessed with the award winning culinary team under Executive Chef Simon Smotkowicz. At Christmas, the Shaw can accommodate 75 to 1500 people. They can produce 4500 meals per day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. For major events 512 staff are available to handle everything from serving, cooking, housekeeping and security. The Shaw has accommodated 9000 delegates from the Alberta Teachers Association by sharing meeting and exhibit space with offsite venues.



Shaw Conference Centre

The Shaw develops partnerships with their clients under the vision of “**If you can dream it, we can build it**”. The complex has 82,000 square feet of pillar-free exhibit space and 20 meeting rooms. The Hall D Ballroom completed in 2006 has 25,000 sq. ft. and can accommodate 1100 people with a river valley view. The cost to cater a wedding party varies from \$55 to \$95 per person. The Shaw operates with a \$600,000 loss per year and receives a grant from the City of Edmonton to cover the deficit. The present occupancy is 54% and the maximum practical rate is 67-69% with 280 days of events.

The Shaw Conference Centre has embraced four sustainability features to support the vision of a Green City, Green Building and Green Meetings. **Sustainable Building Features** include the earth sheltered structure built into the side of Grierson Hill, reflective-type roof system on Hall D expansion, ongoing 5 year upgrading to LED lighting, low-flo faucets and toilets and terraced vegetation throughout exterior areas.

Facility Waste Management includes sorting and disposing of waste in the following streams: compost (organic waste), paper, plastics, beverage containers, cardboard, electronics, batteries (recycling stations located throughout the Centre for guests), wood, metal and light bulbs. The Shaw helped purchase a truck which picks up frozen leftover food from the Centre and all participating restaurants which is then distributed by the Edmonton Food Bank.

Food and Beverage: The Centre features locally-sourced menu items and also maintains an in-house vegetable and herb garden.

Green Meetings: The Centre offers their clients low impact options to encourage green meetings. Invitations and event information are offered electronically, recycled paper can be used for any printed materials and hydration stations are offered instead of bottled water.

John Mann thanked our speakers for a very informative presentation. The winner of the free lunch draw was **Jack Brown**.

President Jack Little welcomed 31 Gyros and one guest to the June 16th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. Cheerio was led by **Jack Ellis** and **David Burnett** presented the Grace. **Jim Lepp**, new member candidate was introduced. **Fred Schulte** introduced his guest **Doug Aspeslet, Past District Governor** and 25 year Lethbridge Gyro Club member.

Marty Larson presented some background information on the Edmonton Gyro Club's benevolence activities since 1921 involving playgrounds for children and gerontology scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alberta. In light of the recent death of Edmonton Constable Daniel Woodall in the line of duty, Marty advised that our club donated \$13,000 in 1992 toward the construction of a memorial park in honour of Constable Ezio Faraone who was slain by an armed robber in 1990.

Doug Aspeslet, Past District Governor inducted **Brian Steilo** as our newest member who promised to uphold the bylaws of Gyro International, Gyro District VIII and the Gyro Club of Edmonton. We welcome Brian and his partner Cathy Johnson!



Cathy Johnson

Brian Steilo

President Jack introduced our guest speaker **Barry Walker**, a 29 year member of the Edmonton Gyro Club. Barry has been on the Board of Athabasca University (AU) for the last 10 years and Board Chair for the last five years.

Athabasca was founded as a residential university in 1970 but changed course in 1972 to become Canada's first open, distance education university. AU offered its first course in 1973 and held its first Convocation in 1977. Today, it offers 816 courses in 56 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs. As of March 31, 2013, AU had awarded 10,989 bachelor's degrees, 6008 master's degrees and five doctorates. Athabasca has an annual operating budget of approximately \$133 million and employs more than 1,200 faculty and staff members. \$40 million comes from the province and the remaining budget is covered by student tuitions.

In addition to its main campus in Athabasca, AU operates satellite facilities in Edmonton, St. Albert and Calgary, and is accessible everywhere through its online

campus. Athabasca University was the first university to be accredited in the USA at various colleges and universities.

AU introduced the world's first online Executive MBA program in 1994. The program was ranked among the world's top 46 online MBA programs by the *Financial Times* in 2013. A new MBA program in Hockey Studies will be launched on July 1, 2015. Brian Burke and Rich Winters will be teaching the "business side of hockey"



Barry Walker

AU partnered with the Royal Architectural Institute in the fall of 2014 to offer Canada's only online architectural program. The National Accreditation Board of Architecture in the USA is now referring students to Athabasca U.

There has been some recent developments in the news recently about the financial status of the university. For the last two years, AU has been trying to fix a new vision. One of the main issues is the sustainability of Athabasca University on the basis of its current business model. Over 40,000 students study at AU each year. 67% of students are women and 87% of students work while they study. Albertans make up 40% of undergraduate and 25% Of graduate students. No funding is received for out of province students and operating revenue must

come from tuition. The funding of Information Technology is not sufficient but it is the “bricks and mortar” of AU.

Members asked a number of questions of Barry: *Was land set aside for a future university campus?* Land was allocated for the University on the north side of St Albert in the 1970’s. For the last five years, AU has lobbied for a move because it is hard to attract staff to the Town of Athabasca.

Do out of province students pay more? The out of province fee is \$50-75 per course. Foreign students are not charged a premium.

Do universities have a higher purpose and social responsibility? In many ways, it is a Canadian issue and the responsibility lies with the Federal Government.

President Jack thanked Barry for a very interesting and timely presentation.

The free lunch draw after six no-shows was won by **Dick Nichols**.

‘Fast Fred’

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 7th

Speaker: TBA

Contacts: Peter Carter and John Mann

Regular Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, July 21st

Speaker: TBA

Contacts: Bill Taylor and Bruce Swanson

Annual GYRO/GYRETTE Golf Tourney, Legends Golf Course, Tuesday, August 4th

Format: Modified Texas Scramble, 9 holes

Tee times: Commencing around 1:00 pm

Cost: TBA

As usual prizes are needed!

Contacts: the Walker's and Russell's

Monday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, August 17th.

Speaker: TBA

Contacts: Ken Willan and Val Pohl

Gyro/Gyrette Corn Roast and Bocce, Tuesday Evening, September 1st

Malmo Community Hall, 11525-48 Ave.

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

Corn, Chicken, Salad and Dessert

Cost: \$20 per person, cash bar for beer and wine.

Contacts: Roger Russell, David Burnett and friends

Monday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, September 14th.

Speaker: TBA

Contacts: Tony Mazzuca and Jack Slobodan

Curl-A-Rama, Banff, November 6-8

Organized by the Calgary Gyro Club

Cost: \$240 which includes 2 nights of accommodation, Friday hospitality and food, 2 breakfasts, Saturday banquet and curling. Without curling, \$175.

Contact: John Hodgson