



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-Chuck Gerhart, Past President-Bruce Swanson,
1st Vice-President-Dunc Mills**

**Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Ron Trant, Doug Armstrong, Ray Dallaire,
Dan Hasinoff, Fred Schulte (Ex-Officio)**

**Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte
Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com**

DECEMBER 2020
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Sam Gruden** on the 1st, **Ron Ramsey, 85 years** on the 3rd, **Larry Dobson** on the 16th, **Gary Campbell** on the 17th, and **Chuck Gerhart, 80 years** on the 24th.

Ari and Kathryn Hoeksema will celebrate their 17th wedding anniversary on the 31st.

President Chuck Gerhart welcomed 28 Gyros and our guest speaker to the December 1st Zoom Video Teleconference.

Jack Little introduced our guest speaker **Raymond Swonek, CEO GEF Seniors Housing**. Jack advised that he has been a Board member at GEF for the last 6 years and that latest audit was described as “pristine”. The staff and residents are treated very well.

Ray indicated that GEF has been in business for 61 years and they have a current operating budget of \$52 million and a capital budget of \$10 million. They provide a secure home service with exceptionally clean buildings. Volunteers have played a big part until the Covid-19 outbreak. Residents are offered choices with living experience and are accountable for their own actions. There is a high user satisfaction rate of 82% which speaks highly of the employees.

Capital upgrades are ongoing to reduce operating costs and a “net energy” approach is taken in all new buildings. There will be a need to accommodate 30,000 seniors soon in the Edmonton area. Community engagement is an essential element in all new developments and upgrades. Many of our buildings offer a mixed resident approach such as 70% seniors and 30% others. This approach allows for any income combination of independent and supportive living options. As of January 1st, 2021, pets will be allowed. All our residential unit are rental.

The Covid-19 Event has resulted in an additional expenditure of \$8 million to ensure safety of our residents. Isolation of our residents is a significant issue. During this past summer, many prospective new residents opted to stay home because of Covid concerns. There is presently more interest by prospective residents to move into our facilities due to the belief that it will be safer than living at home. Unfortunately, in the last two weeks we have had several positive Covid-19 cases in our 43 buildings.

The other big north American issue is that many insurance companies are now refusing to cover seniors housing and other related care facilities.

Alan Rusler thanked our speaker for a highly informative presentation.

Ron Ramsey was the winner of the Virtual Free Lunch draw.

Quick facts about GEF Seniors Housing



14220-109 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5N 4B3
780.482.6561 • gef.org



GEF Seniors Housing is the largest provider of subsidized seniors housing in **ALBERTA**

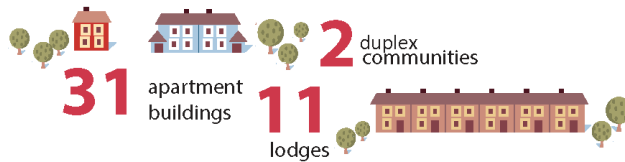


OUR MISSION Leaders in friendly, affordable, secure housing & services for seniors



The year **GEF** began serving seniors & their families

GEF operates & manages



GEF is a registered charity



KINCENTRIC
Best Employer

CANADA 2019



Since 2000, **GEF** has received the COR for workplace **Health & Safety** through the Partnerships in Injury Reduction program

GEF buildings are certified Crime Free Multi-Housing properties by the Edmonton Police Service



President Chuck Gerhart welcomed approximately 60 Gyros, spouses and Gyrettes to the **December 15th Zoom Teleconference Christmas Celebration.**

Jim Lochhead presented the Christmas message. He observed that it is nice to get together even though it is on the screen. Even with strict Covid-19 restrictions there are still opportunities to connect and reconnect.

The **Christmas Story** from scripture tells the story of the hostel being full, with only room left in the manger. The Nativity Scenes are foundational to our Christmas celebrations.

Another important story to be retold at this time of year is the **Christmas Carol** which recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

Would things have been different if Scrooge had done things differently before Christmas?

There are many challenges in Alberta this year with the economic collapse of the oil patch coupled with the economic and health impacts from Covid-19. Our opportunities are much different for us.

Resilience is the key word this year!

Leon Lubin was the Free Lunch winner and **Lorraine Assheton-Smith** was the winner of the bouquet of flowers.

Our Zoom group of 40 screens was organized into breakout groups of five couples and singles each for two ten-minute sessions. This provided an excellent opportunity to find out what each group was planning for the Christmas holidays.

Thanks to **Peter Carter, Zoom Webmaster** for his able skills in managing this extraordinarily successful get together!

President Chuck completed the meeting with a 2020 version of:

'Twas the Night Before Christmas 2020

'Twas the year 2020, and all through the house
every creature was stirring, from Human to Mouse.
The stockings were tossed on the chimney, who cares,
it's been months since we entertained, would Saint Nick even dare?

The children were nestled all snug in their beds
as visions of rubber gloves danced in their heads.
and Ma in her apron and me and my mask
had just settled our brains for a long cleaning task.

When out on the roof there arose such a clatter.
I sprang from my mop to see what was the matter.
Away to the window, I flew like a flash.
I peeked through the shutter, barely touching the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
gave me faith that someday we'd have somewhere to go.
When what do my wondering eyes should appear,
but a miniature sleigh, and eight spotless reindeer.
With a little old driver decked out in full gear,
I knew in a moment we'd have Christmas this year!

More safely than Hazmat the reindeer they came,
and he whistled and shouted and called them by name.
Now Clorox! Now Pine-Sol! Now Lysol and Purex!
On Comet! On Purell! On Top Job and Germ-X!
Wipe the top of the porch! Then the top of the wall!
Now wipe away! Wipe away! Wipe away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
when they finished they then took a jump to the sky.
So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew.
With a sleigh full of masks, and Saint Nicholas too!

And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof,
the pawing of each little rubber-gloved hoof.
As I pulled up my mask and was turning around,
Down the chimney, a big bucket came with abound!
It was covered in plastic from bottom to top,
and the contents were sterile, despite the long drop.

I missed seeing his eyes and his dimples so merry.
But this virus prevents that, these times are so scary.
I imagined his face and his little round belly,
That shook when he laughed like hand sanitizer jelly.
but I saw him outside though, as he stood near his sleigh,
and I laughed when I saw him, from six feet away.

With a wink of his eye and a wave of his hand,
I felt warm inside, Santa too understands.
And without a word, I went right to work.
I filled all our stockings, then turned with a jerk
And laying a finger aside of his mask,
The reindeer rose up, they had finished their task.

He waved to me then, to his team gave a shout,
and socially distancing, quickly flew out.
But I heard him proclaim as he drove out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all, we will all be all right!

Courtesy of Geeks and Games.





Your Editor received the 1900 playground photo image, location unknown, from one of our members and it reminded me of the rationale for the establishment of children's playgrounds by the Edmonton Gyro Club in 1921-22. Several issues arose in the early history of Edmonton. A significant number of young Edmonton area men were rejected for World War One service because they were physically unfit. Secondly, several children died each year due to drownings in the North Saskatchewan River and children were also run over by horse and wagon outfits or had fatal interactions with the new automobile.

The City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Gyro Club supported the establishment of supervised playgrounds to help address these fitness and safety issues.

Safety does not appear to be a consideration in the design of the 1900 era playground!

**School playground equipment
in the year 1900.**



**Apparently in 1900 only the strong
survived recess**



Merry Go-Around in Tipton Park Gyro Playground No. 3

Source: City of Edmonton Archives/File Ea-509-11/Percy Brown A83-55

“Fast Fred”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Zoom Video Teleconference, January 5th.

Presentation Topic: Happy New Year!

Team Leaders: Ron Trant and Jack Bowen

Zoom Video Teleconference, January 19th.

Presentation Topic: 100 years of Gyro Memories

Team Leaders: Marty Larson, Fred Schulte, and John Ross

Zoom Video Teleconference, February 2nd.

Speaker: TBA

Team Leaders: Sheldon Weatherby and Ken Korchinski

Gyro Club of Edmonton 100th Anniversary Celebration, July 29th.

**Gyro International/District Convention and Gyro Club of Winnipeg
100th Anniversary Celebration. August 4-8, 2021.**