



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

President-Georg Schuller, Past President-Jack Bowen

Vice-President-Ray Dallaire

Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Larry Dobson

**Directors- Jim Lepp, Leon Lubin, Martin Marshall, Sheldon Weatherby
Dunc Mills (Ex-Officio)**

Database Administrator-Chuck Gerhart, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte

Club Website: www.edmontongyroclub.com

SEPTEMBER 2024

BIRTHDAYS: Bruce Swanson on the 8th.

Georg Schuller on the 15th.

Peter Carter, **75 on the 25th.**

WEDDING ANNIVERARIES: Doug and Maryella Armstrong, 68 years on the 1st; Georg Schuller and Karin Conradi, 9 years on the 1st; Ron and Tehresa Trant, 36 years on the 9th; and Bruce and Margaret Foy 64 years on the 24th.

A group of 32 Gyros, Gyrettes and guests began our **Annual Bocce Tournament** at the the Derrick Golf and Winter club on Tuesday afternoon, **September 3rd**. The competition was extreme and the teams played until the BBQ dinner commenced.

Dunc Mills played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **President Georg Schuller** welcomed 48 Gyros, Gyrettes and guests.

President Georg welcomed our **District Governor, Ted Ewanchuk** and partner **Judi Stratchuk**.

Peter Carter led the singing of Cheerio.





Governor Ted spoke of the founding of the Edmonton Gyro Club in 1921 and our history of building and operating Gyro Playgrounds. After the late 1940's, the Edmonton Club continued with their benevolence activities supporting musical students and University of Alberta gerontology students with scholarships.

The Governor then proceeded with the induction of our two new members **Jeff Wurzer** and **Ron Odynski**.



Dunc Mills Leon Lubin **Ron Odynski** Teresa Wurzer **Jeff Wurzer** Ted Ewanchuk

The Bocce Tourney continued after dinner with perfect weather and sunny skies.

The competition led to the final game between two very accurate teams. When the last bocce ball was thrown, **Karin Conradi, Sylvia Little, Tony Mazzuca** and **Sharon French** were declared the A Team winner.

The B Team winners were **Larry Dobson, Teresa Wurzer, Eileen Kuhl** and **Dunc Mills**.



Eileen Larry Sharon Tony Teresa Karin Sylvia Dunc

Well done, Gyros!

Thanks to **Bruce Foy, Ken Willan** and **Sam Gruden** for organizing a great Bocce and BBQ event!

Dunc Mills played an introductory tune on the xylophone and **President Georg Schuller** welcomed 24 Gyros and one guest to the September 17th Gyro Luncheon Meeting held at the Millwood's Golf Course Woodvale Clubhouse.

President Georg also welcomed **Don Greig, President, Sherwood Park Golf Club** and Fred Schulte's daughter, **Margo Long**.

Peter Carter led the singing of Cheerio.

Warren Garbutt and **Dunc Mills** reported on the health status of **Marty Larson**. Marty is looking better and recovering well in the Mazankowski Heart Centre.

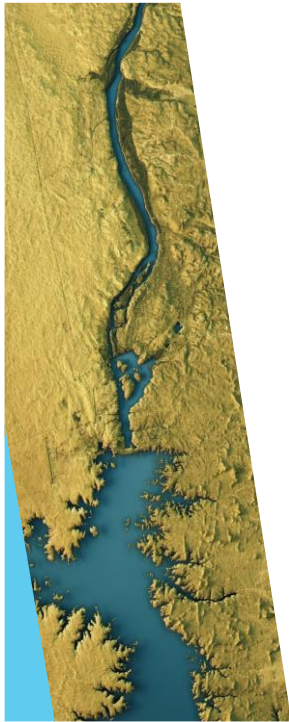
President Georg presented the Grace.

The guest speaker was yours truly, **Fred Schulte**



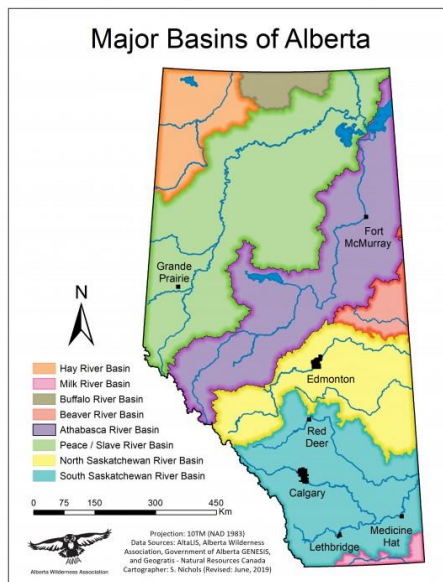
Alberta Water Management History

Fred Schulte
September 17, 2024



▶ Alberta has a unique river basin network that flows into the USA, Hudson's Bay, and the Arctic Ocean. Over 87% of the average annual flow drains northward into the Arctic watershed.

▶ Alberta's population is concentrated in the southern half of the province which has historically experienced periods of low river flows and droughts.



The Palliser Expedition 1857-1859

- ▶ In the middle of the 19th Century there was a recognition by the British Government that the cold and uncultivable Canadian Shield could not accommodate European settlement. The Americans were expanding westerly in the warmer fertile Great Plains areas.
- ▶ The Hudson's Bay Company had a working knowledge of the Great Plains region that was useful to their business interests. The HBC was hesitant to share information about the land they controlled for the sake of protecting their monopoly in the region.
- ▶ There was also fear that American expansionism would look north and lay claim to the land before the British could.
- ▶ This lack of knowledge led the United Kingdom to organize an expedition under the leadership of John Palliser.
- ▶ The expedition concluded that what would become western Canada was divided into three regions: a northern cold zone that was inhospitable to agriculture, a southern area (Palliser's Triangle) which was described as an extension of the American Great Plains which Palliser described as being "more or less arid" desert and unsuitable for crops and a rich fertile belt in the middle that was ideally suited to agriculture and settlement.



Expansion in Western Canada

- ▶ The Hudson's Bay Company from 1670-1870 controlled Rupert's Land a vast territory of northern wilderness. It represented a third of what is now Canada. The Government of Canada acquired Rupert's Land three years after Confederation.
- ▶ The Dominion Lands Act was passed in 1872 to encourage the settlement of the Canadian Prairies and to help prevent the area being claimed by the U.S.
- ▶ The new settlers were offered 160-acre tracts of farmland for \$10.
- ▶ The route of the planned Canadian Pacific Railway was moved southwards to pass through Palliser's Triangle to facilitate homesteading and grain shipment.
- ▶ There were differing opinions on the suitability of the arid lands in the triangle. The area had been viewed in dry times as well as during major wet periods.

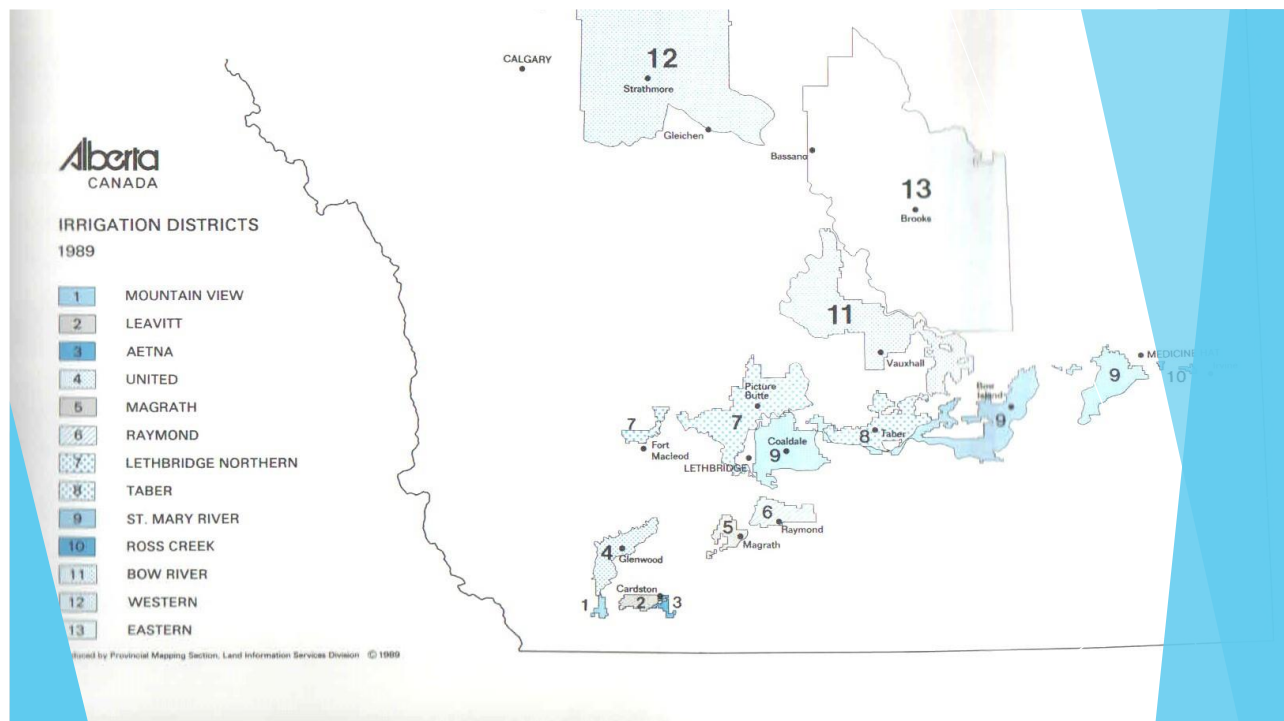
The Canadian Pacific Railway

- ▶ To link Canada together from coast to coast the Federal Government awarded a grant of 25 million acres of land across the country to the C.P.R. This consisted of alternate sections of land on either side of the railway right-of-way for 24 miles. This was to be arable land.
- ▶ Following the completion of the railway to Vancouver in 1885, the C.P.R. soon discovered that some of the land was not arable. The C.P.R. then commenced discussions with the Canadian Government to secure 3 million acres of land described by Capt. John Palliser as fit for homestead only if an irrigation system could be supplied to it.
- ▶ The discussions continued until 1903 when the transfer of the 3 million-acre 'Irrigation Block' fulfilled the agreement to give the C.P.R. land to build the railway.

Source: Flow Beyond the Weir 1994

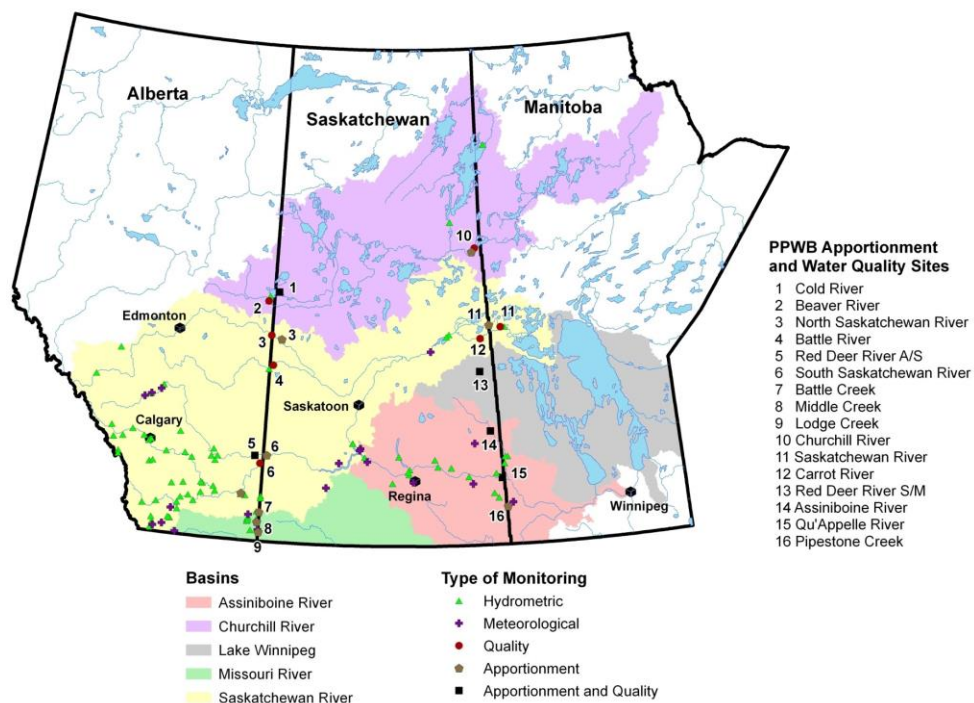
The Irrigation Block

- ▶ The CPR geared up for the construction of the largest irrigation project in North America. A new office was opened in Calgary and named the **Department of Natural Resources**. This office accepted full responsibility for the irrigation development and the colonization of the Irrigation Block.
- ▶ The Irrigation Block would include lands stretching from Strathmore to Brooks using water diverted from the Bow River at Calgary, as well as lands between Cardston and Medicine Hat using Oldman River diversions.



Prairie Provinces Water Board

- ▶ In 1948, Alberta Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada signed the Prairie Provinces Water Board Agreement. This Agreement established a Board to recommend the best use of interprovincial waters, and to recommend allocations between provinces.
- ▶ The governments entered into the Master Agreement on Apportionment on October 30, 1969. This Agreement provided an apportionment formula for eastward flowing interprovincial streams.
- ▶ The agreement permits the Province of Alberta to make a net depletion of one-half the natural flow of waters in the North and South Saskatchewan River Basins and permits the remaining one-half of the natural flow of each such watercourse to flow into the Province of Saskatchewan.





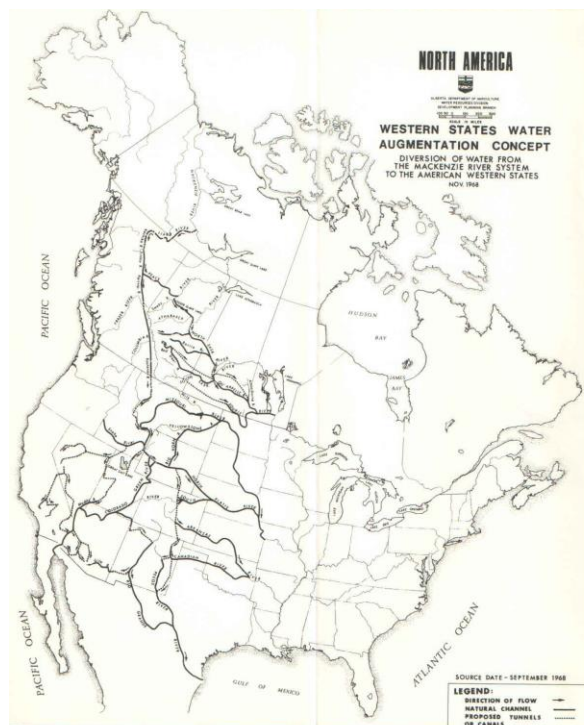
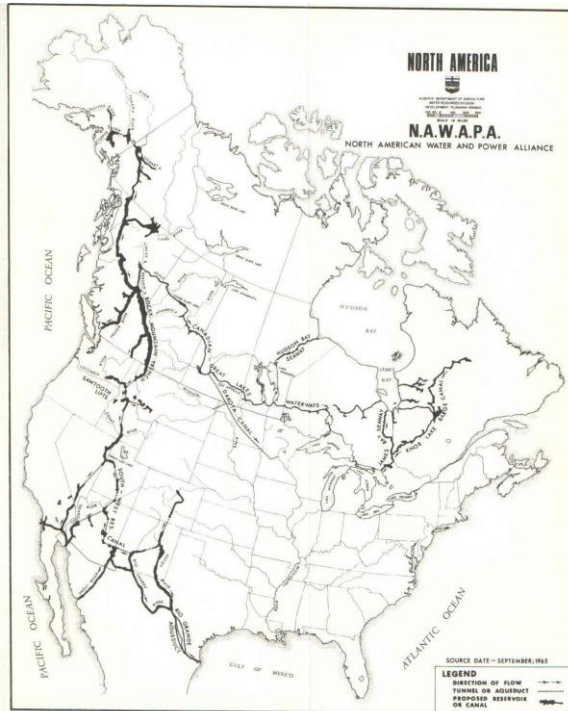
Alberta Hydroelectric Power Plants

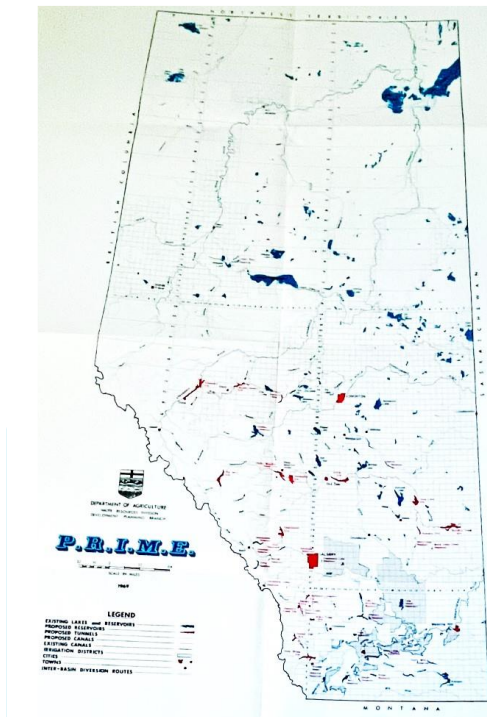
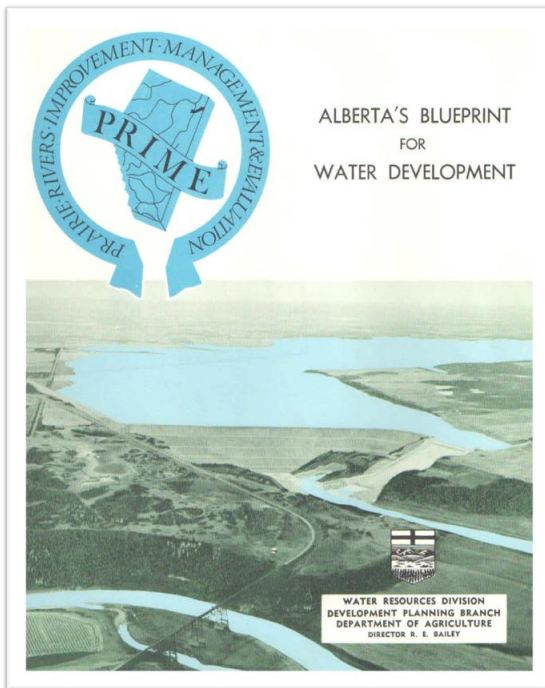
- ▶ The first hydro plant was built in 1883 on the Bow River to generate electricity in Calgary. Hydro power plants continued to be built on the Bow and other southern Alberta rivers for the next 100 years.

Water Diversion Proposals of North America

Prepared by Water Resources Division,
Alberta Agriculture
December 1968

Seven conceptual schemes to move water from Northern Canada to the USA





P.R.I.M.E

Alberta's Blueprint for Water Development

What Will P.R.I.M.E. Do For Alberta

EVALUATION

- ▶ Inventory of the Province's water resources
- ▶ Assessment of future water needs
- ▶ Selection of sites for required water control works
- ▶ Engineering feasibility studies

MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Transfer of water from areas of surplus to areas of deficiency
- ▶ Construction of dams and reservoirs for flood control
- ▶ Water conservation for downstream use by cities, industries, irrigators, and stock
- ▶ Provision of water areas for swimming, boating, and other recreational activities
- ▶ Increased waterfowl and fish productions
- ▶ Allocation of water for future developments

What Will P.R.I.M.E. Do For Alberta

IMPROVEMENT

- ▶ Flow improvement
- ▶ Water control
- ▶ Erosion control
- ▶ Pollution abatement

P.R.I.M.E. Overview

- ▶ Peace River diversions to Lesser Slave Lake and the Athabasca River
- ▶ Athabasca River diversions in the Hinton area using tunnels and canals to other rivers to create new reservoir's and enhance water levels in existing lakes, west and north of Edmonton.
- ▶ North Saskatchewan river diversions to the Red Deer River and the Special Areas south of Buffalo Lake and east of Drumheller.
- ▶ Numerous dams and reservoirs in southern Alberta using diverted water from the Bow, Oldman and the St Mary's rivers.

Gull Lake Water Stabilization Project

- ▶ Gull Lake is in Lacombe and Ponoka Counties and has been a recreation destination for over a hundred years. The Summer Village of Gull Lake was established on the south end in 1913. The lake level dropped 8.5 feet between 1924 and 1970's.
- ▶ The provincial government was pressured to do something about the low lake levels. The Water Resources Division of Alberta Agriculture was tasked with solving the problem. I was assigned to review the land ownership around the lake to determine if there was a public interest in spending money to restore the lake level. It was ultimately determined that with the purchase of a few quarter sections of land combined with existing crown lands, public access could be ensured in the future.

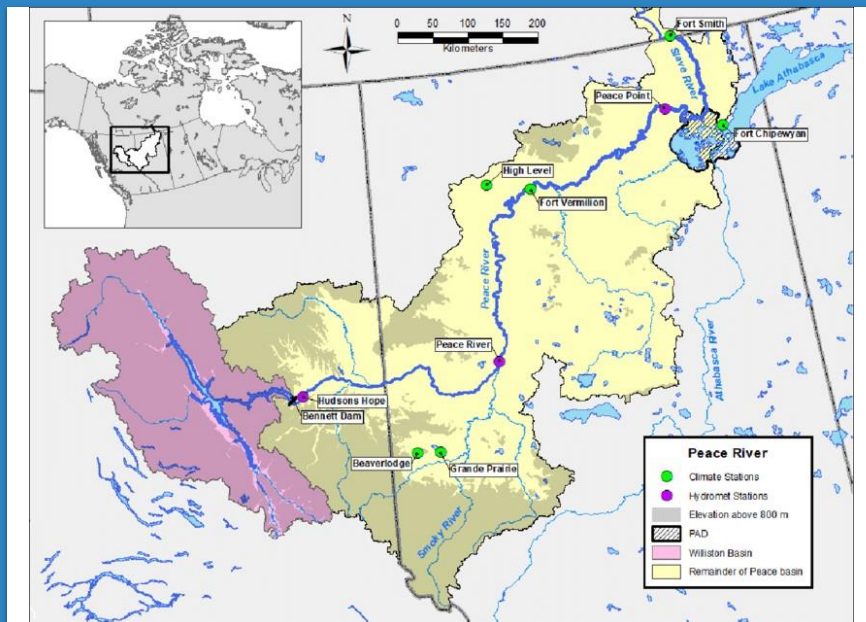


Gull Lake Water Stabilization Project

- ▶ The Gull Lake stabilization project was built in 1976 and was designed to pump water from the Blindman River - via a pumphouse, pipeline, and open canal - into Gull Lake to help stabilize lake levels to help maintain recreation value and habitat.
- ▶ The project has pumped water for 23 of the last 47 years based on lake levels and water supply. The license to pump water from the Blindman River was revoked in 2018 because the invasive Prussian carp was found in the river.
- ▶ An engineering review determined that a full-size filtration system could catch 100% of carp eggs before they reached the lake. The estimated cost \$400,000!

Unplanned or Unintended Consequences

- ▶ The building of dams and reservoirs have always created localized impacts such as the flooding of river valleys, farms and sometimes entire communities.
- ▶ The completion in 1968 of the Bennett Dam on the Peace River in British Columbia forever changed the traditional way of life for the Cree and Chipewyan nations in the Peace Athabasca Delta.
- ▶ The Peace River flow regime, flow and timing were dramatically altered resulting in the drying up of delta lakes in the vicinity of Ft. Chipewyan
- ▶ Fish habitat was lost, vegetation changes led to altered use by migratory birds.
- ▶ Two more dams have been constructed in B.C. on the Peace, the Canyon Dam in 1980 and Site C, southwest of Ft. St John which will be completed in 2025 at a cost of \$16 billion.



Present Day Water Issues

- ▶ Most of Southern Alberta remains in a long-term drought. The Oldman and St. Mary reservoirs in southern Alberta were 20 to 40% below normal month of May levels.
- ▶ Oil and gas companies have been warned to prepare contingency plans should its source of water dry up. Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission has banned oil and gas companies from using potable water for oil field hydraulic fracking.
- ▶ Alberta's auditor general reported in June that the province has no water conservation objectives in most basins and does not know if existing objectives are working.
- ▶ If there isn't enough water to go around, we decide who gets water by who has the earliest licence.

The Free Lunch winner was **Ron Trant!**

"Fast Fred"

Upcoming Events:

Joint Men's Bocce Tourney Sherwood Park/Edmonton Gyro Clubs

Wednesday, October 2nd, Italian Seniors Centre, 9111-110 Ave.

Time: 5:00 pm

Cost: \$55

Team Leaders: Mike Matei and Augie Annicchiarico

Joint Founders Night Celebration, Mixed Event, SHERWOOD PARK GYRO CLUB HOST, Wednesday October 16th, Broadmoor Golf Club, 2100 Oak Street Sherwood Park.

Time: 5:00pm No Host Cocktails, 6:00pm Carved Roast Beef Buffet with all the trimmings.

Cost: \$45 Single, \$85 per couple

Program: Constable Kristin Appleton RCMP Sherwood Park.

Topic: Seniors Scams