

# GYROLOG

## GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Hello Gyrolog Readers!! I have some sad new for you. You are without The Same Old Bull for at least two editions of our Bulletin and you are faced with the bleak realization that you have only a few options available to you. One, you can struggle through the Gyrolog just as it comes to you in that nice white envelope lovingly prepared for you by Gord Robertson – the Grin and Bear it Option. Two, you can invoke your imagination and pretend that this has been prepared for you by The Same Old Bull – the Alzheimer Reversal Option. Three, you can toss out this and the next Gyrolog and simply pretend that it never arrived in your mailbox – the Snail Mail Revenge Option. To our great misfortune our good friend Al must be away for a period of time and your President, Bruce, unwittingly and unknowingly (Owen, he was not a part of the group who were subjected to that period of Gyrolog history when we were involved with the Gyrolog production so we will need to forgive Bruce on this rare error in good judgment) asked if I would undertake the creation of the next two editions. It is rare for Bruce to let us down like this.

The first thing that you will notice is that there are none of the regular icons, bulletin headings and sidebars – I have no idea where to find these. Once upon a time (all good fairy tales start with this phrase so you know what is coming) I had such devices stored in my computer – but it was a MAC and I have relegated it to my grandchildren while I have move [up market??] to an IBM. Nothing was transferable, not even my laser printer. The Gyrolog icons are gone. Only the white page remains. And so we commence . . . .

Once upon a time, in the far northern reaches of the small kingdom of Alberta (darn, I've used this one before). President Bruce called our Gyro gathering of 29 friends together shortly after 12:00 noon and called upon our soprano (no, not a member of the clan of TV renown), Roger Russell, to lead us in Cheerio and a hale and hearty version it was. The joyfulness emanating from Roger's vocal cords was, no doubt, due to the fact that he and Janet will shortly hitch their fifth wheel onto their pick-up truck, load on board their golf clubs and head to parts and places unknown but definitely south of this small kingdom of Alberta. We will miss the two of you but we all wish you wonderful fairways and two-putt greens. Owen Cornish lead us In Grace – thoughtfully prepared and spiritually spoken.

Ted Hagemann introduced his guests, Rick Korzan and Wayne Tingley to the group – they were warmly welcomed as was Gerrit Halbersma. It is great to have new friends among us. President Bruce also introduced our guest speaker, Grant McCarthy, President of Beaver Plastics.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Bruce read a letter that he had received from our longstanding friend, Gunnar Anderson. Gunnar has recently retired from Norterra and he and his family have made plans for new adventures. Unfortunately they will not fit well into Gyros and with regret he has tendered his resignation from our club. Everyone will miss Gunnar and Pat but we all join together to wish them a happy and fulfilling retirement. God bless you both and may the years ahead sparkle with joy. Come back any time.

Our Fairmont Interim Convention is peeking around the corner – **March 16, 17, and 18.** Applications for this very special event are available through our Club executive officers.

We expect a great turn out from the club and if you haven't yet had the chance to share an Interim Convention with Gyro friends, plan to make this one the first of many. If you do plan to go and haven't yet book your hotel room PLEASE do so now. President Bruce told us that the Radium Hot springs Hotel had contacted Governor Don Greig to say that they would be releasing our "reservations on blocks of rooms" after February 10<sup>th</sup>. For those who have not attend an Interim, John Stroppa reminded us that the Club has a policy of subsidizing our participation. If you plan to attend and if you are a skier, bring your skis – Panorama is only a short distance away!! If the weather is good and you like to golf, it may well be that the golf courses along the Columbia River will be open for play. A quick call ahead will provide you the information you will need to make a thoughtful choice on your recreational activity. As for me, well, I like the Hot Pool, a full moon, light wispy clouds and good friends.

**Bocce!!** The national game of our Italian friends beckons the Gyros from our Club and that of St. Albert again. Mark down **March 5<sup>th</sup>** as a date not to be missed. Games start around 5:00 PM at the Italian Cultural Centre. We break at about 6:30 for a wonderful supper and then resume play – which goes on until a winning foursome is determined. Our friends from St. Albert have not treated members of our Club with the respect our seniority should have commanded – all too frequently they take the trophy home. But this is the Year of the Gyro Club of Edmonton!! Check with Geoff Brewer or Larry Dobson if you want to join us. Cost is about \$25.00 per person for the rent on the facility as well as to cover the cost of the supper.

**Birthdays!!** February is the magic month for Bryce Van Dusen, Dick Nichol, Bill Agnew, and Jack Ellis. Happy birthday all and may you share your special day with Gyro friends for many, many years.

**Health of the Club.** Mort Morter welcomed Al McClure to our meeting and in so doing told us that Al was well on the way to a full recovery – so speedy has been Al's recovery that he and Bette will leave shortly for their winter home in the sunny south. It was wonderful to have Al with us and to see him looking so well. Enjoy the rest of your warm winter months. Friend Al.

Dick Ogilvie is still in the extended care wing of the old General Hospital. He told me on my visit last Saturday that his doctor thinks that his disorder is related to Parkinson's disease but sadly the medical experts do not have an accurate diagnosis for Marg and Dick. Not really knowing one's health problem is a situation that is terribly difficult to live with day after day. If you find time, drop in to see Dick – 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the north wing. He likes to have company.

**Hockey Pool.** Dave Duchak and Bob Lippe reported on the Hockey Pool winners of the past two games. Edmonton defeated the Detroit Red Wings 2 – 1 on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> period winners were Jennifer Foy and Roger Russell; 2<sup>nd</sup> period winners – Doug Clayton and Tess Poulton; and 3<sup>rd</sup> period winners – Doug Ingersoll and Kiana Solvason. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Phoenix Coyotes and the Oilers played to a 1 – 1 draw. First period winners

were Todd Verhaegen and Jennifer Stephen; 2<sup>nd</sup> period winners – Andrea Larson and Marg McClure; 3<sup>rd</sup> period winners – Allan Ursulak and Jennifer Brewer.

**Valentine's Party!!** Bill Agnew, who is working with Walter Yakimets on the creation of our Valentine's Day Party, reminded us that the Party is scheduled for the evening of February 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM. This year our Party will be hosted by Bridges' Restaurant at 9028 Jasper Avenue (just across the bridge and on the north side). Cost? \$35.00 per person. Walter is out of the country for another week so call Bill Agnew if you need more information.

**Next Meeting!!! February 20<sup>th</sup> (same day as the Valentine's Day Party)** Larry Dobson has invited a speaker from the Fraud Division of the Edmonton City Police Department to tell us about "Fraud Bombs" – critical fraudulent actions that are nearly ready "to explode" if we are not aware of them. The theme will be "prevention". Sounds like an important topic for us. Plan to attend. Thanks, Larry, for arranging this speaker.

**Upcoming Installation Ceremonies – March 20<sup>th</sup>.** President Bruce has good news for us. On March 20<sup>th</sup> two new members will be installed into roster of our Club. They are Gerrit Halbersma and Rick Korzan. Plan to come out to welcome Rick and Gerrit officially into the circle of Gyro friendship.

#### GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION

President Bruce officially introduced Grant McCarthy to the members of our Club. Grant is, according to Bruce, originally a "stubble jumper". He completed his engineering degree at the University of Saskatchewan in 1959 but along the way he also pick up his welder and steam boiler tickets. After graduation Grant joined British American Oil and was swiftly transferred east to learn about the culture of oil. While in Montreal he found his way into the Canadian Shield and took up the sport of skiing. Grant also picked up some important insights into new products and in 1968 he left the oil industry to start his own company – Beaver Plastics. "Beaver Plastics is a producer of high performance, engineered expanded polystyrene (EPS)." Unlike many other similar companies, however, Grant has made his company a world leader by "... investing twice the national average in research and development." He held our attention by regaling us with stories of devising special products that enhanced the capability of Canadian alfalfa seed growers to produced the best seeds in the world – and all because of very special bees and a Beaver Plastics product was creatively designed to allow the bees to secrete their eggs into "tunnels" of a specific diameter. To our chagrin, the men lost out again in the gender "wars". It is the female who reigns supreme – alfalfa seed growers really don't want male bees so Grant and his team together with the "bee experts" designed tunnels that produced a surfeit of female eggs – ah, the intricacies of life.

Not satisfied with having altered the agriculture of Alberta, Grant shifted his sights to BC and helped to change the way seedlings are grown in that fair province (not bad for a "stubble jumper" from Saskatchewan, eh?). His company created new controlled

containers (Styroblock) which, when used in conjunction with special greenhouses (and their controlled environment), reduced the seedling mortality rate of 50% experienced in the bare root seedling delivery program to something closer to zero. Today more than 200 million seedlings are grown in BC and Grant's company supplies 90% of the specialized containers in which they are raised.

Enroute he and his engineers also devised ways to grind up the EPS container trays once they have outlived their usefulness. The EPS is recycled by grinding the Styroblocks into small particles that are then mixed into the earth to create enhanced interstitial spaces in the soil in which the seedlings are grown (all the better for the seedlings to breathe and obtain nutrients from the soil).

Grant went on to tell us about frost cushions (for placement under grade beams), slab cushions (specially designed to gradually break down under the weight of a concrete slab as it "creeps") and other EPS building products. Questions from the Gyros present lead to an extended discussion of the importance of recycling products such as EPS. Clearly Beaver Plastics places a strong emphasis on this aspect of their work but Grant stressed that there will be no single answer to the problem of recycling EPS. Each product may need its own re-cycling/re-use solution. Most importantly, solutions are being creatively examined within the company's teams of engineers.

Geoff Brewer thanked Grant for an interesting and informative presentation and invited him back to share other Gyro events.

President Bruce then challenged Grant to "cut the cards" to identify a needy Gyro who would receive a "free lunch". Grant promptly cut the cards to identify his tablemate – Gerry Glassford. Many thanks, Grant!!! Come back again soon.

**DON'T FORGET – FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> IS A BIG GYRO/GYRETTE DAY.  
Valentine's Day Party and our regular Gyro luncheon meeting.**

**Elaine and Allan Douglas are off on a brief vacation - we wish them well and safe journeys. In Allan's absence Gerry and Gord have been rejoined as part of the Gyrolog team – if you have, complaints, however, direct them to President Bruce.**

A Tribute to Freud.

A friend had been going to a psychiatrist for three years. Finally, at the end of one visit the psychiatrist said to my friend, "It is a pleasure to pronounce you completely cured!!"

An unhappy expression came over my friend's face. "What's wrong?" asked the psychiatrist. "I thought that you would be greatly pleased with this news."

"That's what *you* thought," my friend replied. "But look at it from my point of view. Three years ago when I came to see you I was Napoleon Bonaparte. Now I'm nobody!!"