

THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

Nov. 10, 1996

President

Allan Douglas

Bus/Fax: 433-5409

1st V/President

Gerry Glassford

Bus: 430-7108

2nd V/President

Jack Ellis

Res/Fax: 435-2349

Imm. Past President

Michael Matei

Bus/Fax: 458-9211

Secretary

Dick Ogilvie

Res: 432-0912

Treasurer

John Stroppa

Res: 469-6133

Directors

Victor Jagoldas

Res: 434-2438

Fred Schulte

Res: 434-0925

Andy Friderichsen

Res: 436-0897

Dick Mandlis

Bus: 489-2349

Gyrolog Editor-in-Chief

Gordon Rennie

Res: 488-2856

Rev. Bill.) Keep up with this type of report, **Bert**. We appreciate the positive health we are all enjoying.

Unfortunately, no one can do justice to the humour embedded in the Curl-à-rama report shared with us by the inimitable duo of **Al McClure** and **Gord Rennie** - the co-coaches of our fearless four. **Al** stressed the peerless capacity to our fearsome foursome to fight back from adversity. Having fallen behind by five stones in the first end of the first game, the team rallied to hold opponents to only four stones in the

'Twas a beautiful, sunny Tuesday when **President Allan** invited us into the dining area of the Mayfair Club for our regular meeting. There had been a recent fall of snow and the fairways and greens of the golf course fairly sparkled in the sun. The deep azure blue of the Alberta skies and the verdant green of the spruce and pines made the scene memorable - truly the type of scene that we miss when we are away from this city for a prolonged period.

Dick Ogilvie and **Gerry Glassford** teamed up to lead the assembled friends in a musical interlude commonly known among us as "Cherrio". They may never replace the Rat Pack (Sinatra, Martin and Davis) from a musical perspective but the Rat Pack probably could not have exceeded the lively rendition that echoed through the Club.

Rev. John Dowds shared with us a thoughtful grace. **Rev. Bill Graham**, for the information of friends unavoidably absent, was nursing a very tender left arm - the result of a fall caused by a piece of ice underfoot (we subsequently learned that Bill had fractured the humerus (the bone of the upper arm) We wish you a speedy recovery, **Bill**. (An editorial aside - did you know that we call the elbow joint area the "funny bone" because it borders on the humerus?)

Tony Sheppard introduced to the group, his friend, **Sam Steele**, and **Gordon Robertson** his friend, Art Meidinger, a well known colleague of those who work in the Alberta oil patch. We were pleased to have new friends with us.

On November 14th **Marty Larson** will celebrate his first birthday in his new home. May it be a very pleasant one, **Marty**.

The report on the health of the club was given by **Bert Boren** - we were delighted to learn that all members are well (save for the unfortunate fall of

second, and three in the third. By the fourth end, they had reduce the opponents to taking two paltry stones. Lest we forget, our team went on to victory in the second game and was narrowly beaten in the third match to achieve an overall record of 1-2. On a more serious note, **Gord** and **Al** reported that numbers of Gyro participants was lower this year and that it is important that each of our clubs renews its effort to increase our levels of participation next year. Perhaps our executive can add this suggestion to the agenda for future consideration. The co-coaches noted that after the first end of the first game the loquacious **Allan Ursulak** was overheard to say as the team started the second end, "We are going to have to play this end as if we are down five."

On a not so humorous note, our club has lost two more wonderful members. **Rollie Walsh** has tendered his resignation from the club although some members will continue to enjoy **Betty** and **Rollie's** companionship in the Gyro bridge group. And **Pat Rasko**, unable to make our noon meetings, has decided to transfer to Edmonton Crossroads where he will be able to share in many more of the Gyro functions. While we have not lost **Pat** from the Gyro movement (and that is positive) we have lost him from our Club. We wish both **Pat** and **Rollie** happy and healthy days ahead. We will miss you. Our Executive and our membership committee will be meeting soon to discuss the matter of club membership and to consider ways in which we might reverse the current trend. By the way, **Dr Larry Wang** sends greetings through **Allan Warrack** and asked that the club be told that he is extremely busy at this time and cannot participate in functions as he might like. He is often abroad and has joined the U of A President, Rod Fraser, on many trips into the eastern Pacific area. We hope to see **Larry** and **Rosa** back with us more in 1997.

Allan Warrack reported that \$110, the profits from the operation of the Golf Tournament held during the International and District VIII Convention, has been donated to the Gyro Betterment Fund. Since the profits were the result of contributions by many Gyros it seemed most appropriate that all of the Gyro movement benefit from them. Well done, **Allan** and the Tournament organization members!!

Our luncheon speaker, **Cecilia Blasetti** of the George Spady Centre, was introduced by **Fred Schulte**. **Cecilia** was born and raised in southern Alberta but she has lived in the Leduc area for many years and has been with the George Spady Centre for 12 (7 as the executive director). The George Spady Centre offers programs for people who struggle with alcohol and drug problems. The Centre has overnight shelter capacity for 50 people, detoxification services for 20 clients and also provides daytime drop-in and coffee services. The funding for operation comes primarily from the Government of Alberta through AADAC and this base fund is supplemented by some funds from the City. As government cutbacks have occurred, the need for the types of services offered by the GSC has increased and the stress on the system, according to **Cecilia**, is being felt by many.

The staff, highly trained (much of the training is done on-site), compassionate and understanding, do their best to work with the "whole" individual and to provide opportunities for the clients to discover new directions in their lives. The staff who work at the GSC are touched by the people with whom they work and, as a consequence,

the turn-over among the staff is very low. They become mission-driven in this "humbling", humane environment.

When asked by a club member whether there is a growing tendency for people to turn over their own responsibility to agencies like the GSC, **Cecilia** responded that to an extent this is true but that the vast majority, while they refer themselves to the Centre, also realize that it is very short term UNLESS they willingly begin a detoxification program. She also noted that police officers refer about 5% of the clients to the Centre. There is no requirement for people to stay; they may come and go as they please. The GSC is a place that is "about change" but it is not change that occurs quickly. Consequently it is necessary to re-define the concept "success" both for people who refer and for those who staff the Centre. The challenge is truly a great one.

Victor Jagoldas graciously thanked **Cecilia** for her message, her leadership and her commitment to people who need a hand up from time to time..

Al McClure reminded all of us who still have hockey pool tickets (or the money equivalence) to return them to him ASAP. Our friend, **Bob Lippe**, has agreed to look after the mailing of cheques to the weekly winners of the hockey pool. Thanks, **Bob**. We all look forward to your regular letters and cheques.

With **Pat Rasko's** decision to transfer to the Crossroads Gyro Club, **John Plunkett** reminded us that we need a new volunteer to help with the hosting and organizing of our regular January bowling program. If any one would like to help enhance the lives of Gyros and Gyrettes in this way, please contact **John** at 435-7011.

Haig Lewis won the luncheon draw and returned the monies to the club for the good of Gyro. Thank you, **Haig**.

These are busy days for many, many people. It is as equally true for Gyros and Gyrettes as it is for so many others in our society and so when our friend, **Dick Ogilvie**, handed the following poem to one of the Gyrolog co-editors it seem just the right thing to put into this week's 'log to help each of us to remember the underlying rationale of our Gyro movement.

FRIENDSHIP

*If nobody smiled and nobody cheered and nobody helped us along:
 If every man looked after himself and good things all went to the strong:
 If nobody cared just a little for you, and nobody thought about me
 And we all stood alone in the battle of life, what a dreary old world this would
 be!*

*Life is sweet because of the friends we've made. All Things in common we
 share.*

*We want to live on, not because of ourselves, but because of the people who
 care.*

*It's giving and doing for somebody else - on that all life's splendour depends:
 And the joy of the world when you sum it all up, is form in the making of friends.*

Anonymous

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 12 (Tuesday) Gyrette Meeting will be held at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club beginning at 6:00PM. Cost is per person will be \$13.50. The speaker will be **Neil Horne** from the Canadian Cancer Society.
- November 18 (Monday) Our St Albert Gyro Club friends will host **FOUNDER'S NIGHT** at Eagles Club at 6:30 PM. A Poker Night will follow. We would very much like to have a good turn out from our Club and there is still time to sign up for this special event at our next luncheon meeting.
- November 19 (Tuesday) Regular Gyro Luncheon Meeting at 12:00 noon at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club.
- December 3 (Tuesday) Regular Gyro Luncheon meeting at Mayfair Golf and Country Club.
- December 4 (Wednesday) A traditional Christmas Party is being planned which will be held in the Clerks' Quarters in Fort Edmonton. We are planning an old fashioned Christmas party which will begin about 6:00 PM and will be complete by about 9:30 PM. Calls are now being made to determine numbers. If some members need rides to and from the Fort, please let the caller know.
- March 3, 1997 Mark your calendars, Bocci lovers.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

There are still some outstanding dues for the period of October 1 to December 31, 1996. Please accept this as a reminder that these dues were payable on October 1. Those who have not paid are asked to send their payment now to John Stroppa. Thank you.



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FRATERNITY
OF
FRIENDSHIP

