



THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

Club Charter No.18, July 29, 1921

**President-Ray Dallaire, Past President-Peter Carter,
1st Vice-President- Bruce Swanson, 2nd Vice-President-David Winfield
Secretary-Barry Walker, Treasurer-Gary Campbell,
Directors- Tracy DesLaurier, John Mann, Leon Lubin, Len Evenson
Database Administrator-John Ross, Gyrolog Editor-Fred Schulte**

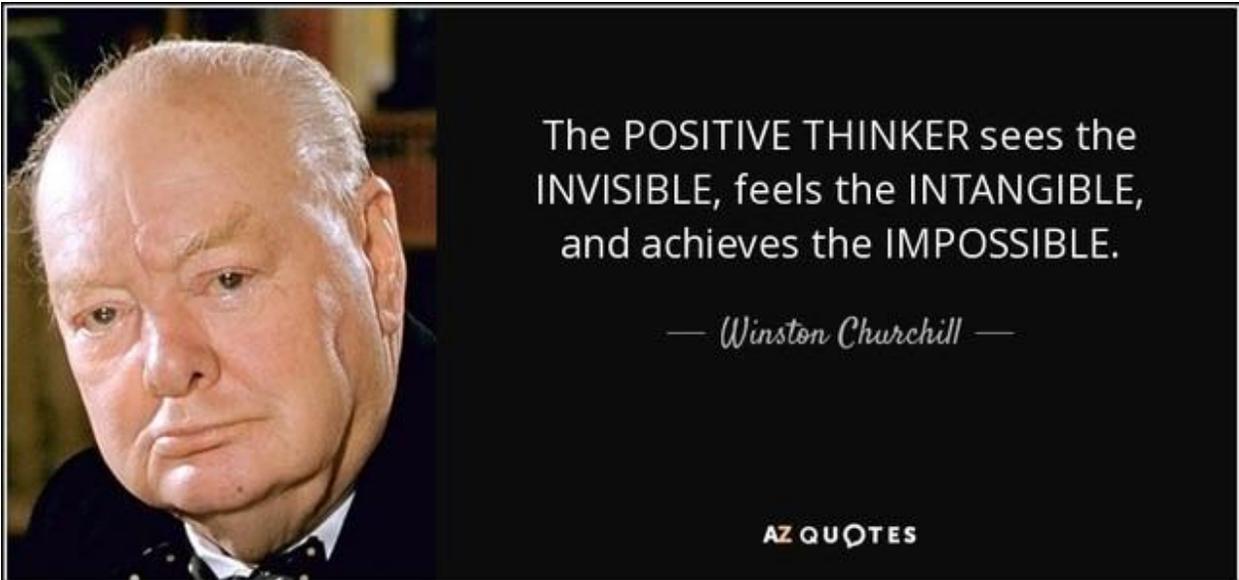
MARCH 2018

Those celebrating their birthdays are **Alan Rusler** on the 3rd, **Sheldon Weatherby** on the 11th, **Roy Bennett** on the 17th, **Jack Slobodan** on the 19th, **Len Stevens** on the 27th, **Barry Walker** on the 29th and **Ari (Dutch) Hoeksema** on the 30th. Those celebrating their wedding anniversaries are **Mike and Sharon Matei**, 29 years on the 18th and **Peter Gommerud and Karen McNaughton**, 34 years on the 24th.

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Your Executive met in February and reviewed the potential donation of some of the Benevolence Fund. It was determined that a donation be made to **Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS)**. YESS helps youth ages 15 to 24 who are homeless.

The proposed donation was discussed at the February 20th Luncheon Meeting and the members approved a motion to donate \$7500.00 to YESS.

President Ray Dallaire welcomed 30 Gyros and four guests to the **March 6th** Luncheon Meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **Allan Warrack** introduced his guest and new member applicant, **Fred Otto**. **David Burnett** introduced his guest **Heinrich Grosskopf** and **Peter Carter** introduced his guest and new member applicant, **Doug Armstrong**.

Ron Trant led the singing of Cheerio and **Reverend Heinrick Grosskopf** presented the Grace.

Larry Dobson provided an update on the planning for the **District VIII Convention** to be held in **Drumheller May23-26, 2019**. Larry advised that a theme for the Convention is needed and requested that ideas be submitted to Bruce Swanson and himself.

Governor Peter Carter welcomed **Dr. Larry Wang**, a 26-year member of the Edmonton Club and presented him with his **25-year membership pin**. **Marty Larson** sponsored Larry in 1992. Dr. Wang is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta. Since his retirement in 2005, he has been actively involved in eco-rehabilitation in the Upper Yangtze River in China.



Larry Wang

Ron Trant introduced our guest speaker, **Raymond Swonek, Chief Executive Officer, GEF Seniors Housing**. He is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years of business experience in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. Raymond has been involved in the Seniors Housing industry since 1997. He is President of the Alberta Seniors Communities & Housing Association. He is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing. Raymond is passionate about positively influencing seniors' quality of life.

The Greater Edmonton Foundation (GEF) was established as a management body in 1959. It is a **Not for Profit- Registered Charity** with an operating budget of \$45 million.

Our Vision: Positively influencing seniors' quality of life.

Our Mission: Leaders in friendly, affordable, secure housing and services for seniors.

GEF Seniors Housing is the largest provider of subsidized seniors housing in Alberta and operates 29 apartment buildings, two duplex communities and 10 lodges. **Thirty-five hundred seniors call GEF their home.** Sixty per cent of residents are over 75 years of age. Thirteen residents are over 100 years of age. Seventy-five percent of GEF residents have incomes of less than \$2000 per month. Seventy-five percent of residents are females and 25% male. The minimum age of residents is 65 but for couples there is a provision for a second resident, if they are at least age 60.

What we Offer: Safe and secure home environment, nutritious & delicious food. Dedicated and caring staff, impeccably clean buildings/excellent housekeeping and help when you need it.

There are 500 staff including a full-time maintenance crew providing 24-hour service. The cost to provide in house cooked meals is seven dollars per day.

There are presently **12,345 Edmonton Seniors who need affordable housing**. In 15 years the demand for affordable housing will exceed 30,000. There is currently a wait list of one year for affordable housing.

Our newest buildings provide both underground and surface parking. **Ottewell Terrace** which opened in 2015 incorporates a daycare for 90 children in the centre of the complex. Seniors can observe the children playing outside from their balconies.

Our newest residence, **Sakaw Terrace**, will open in 2019 and will for the first time offer subsidized, affordable and market choices in accommodation.

GEF is currently negotiating with the City of Edmonton to purchase surplus school sites in Wards 2, 4 and 10.

What is Happening in Edmonton?

- Seniors population increasing (double by 2031)
- Seniors more diverse and have more complex needs
- Political issue
- Changing work force
- More community engagement
- Mixed Income Developments
- Demand for safe, affordable seniors housing is growing.

Ron Trant thanked our speaker for a very informative and relevant presentation.

Dunc Mills was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.

President Ray Dallaire welcomed 33 Gyros and seven guests to our March 20th luncheon meeting held at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club. **John Ross** introduced his guests **Ross Bradford**, **Len Thuesen** who worked with Bob Layton at **CKNL Radio** in Fort. St John in 1970 and **new member applicant**, **Heinrich Grosskopf**.

Allan Warrack introduced **new member applicant**, **Fred Otto**, and **Peter Carter** introduced **new member applicant**, **Doug Armstrong**. **President Ray** introduced **Bob** and **Marg Layton**.

Sam Gruden led the singing of **Cheerio** and **Reverend Grosskopf** presented the Grace.

Treasurer **Gary Campbell** presented the proposed **GENERAL FUND Budget, May 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019**. After a summary of the budget was discussed, **Treasurer Gary moved** that the Budget be approved, which, which was **seconded by Allan Warrack**. The members unanimously approved the 2018-2019 Budget.

Alan Rusler introduced **Bob Layton, News Director for Corus Entertainment in Edmonton**. Bob is now in his 48th year of broadcasting. A winner of four national awards for his editorials, he is known for taking strong stands on family, good government and law and order. In demand on the convention circuit, Bob has spoken to audiences that range from all levels of government, to the military, police organizations, and leaders in business, agriculture, education, health care, and many seniors and special needs groups. His stories have been heard from Inuvik to Las Vegas and many places in between.

Bob's wife Marg operates her own long-arm quilting company called I QUILT FOR YOU. She has won international awards for her quilting.

Bob is also a member of the International Ventriloquist's Association. It's the only way he can get the last word in after being told to keep his mouth shut. Bob and Marg have six children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bob Layton was born in England during World War II and his family moved to Taber, Alberta after the war. Layton attended Western Canada High School in Calgary.

Bob spoke of his time at **Western Canada High** where he challenged the authority of teachers and was suspended a few times. The vice-principal found Bob in the hallway one time and started laying down the law in front of some of the other students. Bob responded in kind, in his best public speaking voice, complete with gestures, and a crowd started to gather. As the conversation deteriorated, he was ordered to the principal's office. Principal Ward Steckle had his game face on and advised Layton that he would be attending a school assembly the next day and would be going up on stage to publicly apologize to the vice-principal. Bob told him that he would love to get up on the stage, but he would not apologize.



The famous Hollywood sign, which originally said ‘Hollywoodland’. The last four letters were removed in 1949.

“Instead I would tell the audience exactly what I thought of the way the school was being run.”

*Mr. Steckle said in that case, I was out, and I could never return. Principal Steckle’s parting words were, “**Bobby Layton, you will never find happiness in this life unless you can find a job where they will actually pay you to constantly question people in authority**”*

It was many years before Layton realized how prophetic that statement was. When I told my dad, I had been kicked out, he said **“Your mouth can do two things: It can get you in trouble, or it can make you famous”**.

Editor's note: I attended Western Canada High during the same period and remember how strict the rules were. Any boys who had not shaved were summoned to the vice-principal's office and given an electric razor. In addition, you were not allowed to have your shirt loose and hanging over the belt, it had to be tucked in. How times have changed!

With an unfinished grade 12 on his resume, Bob set out to find a job and was hired by the Calgary Post Office to sort mail. He was the first non-veteran to be hired and listened to the veterans and observed their shenanigans. He stayed six years but finally left after the workers went on strike.

Bob attended the Columbia School of Broadcasting in Calgary and then in 1970, he drove to **Fort St John** to be interviewed for a job at **Radio Station CKNL**. He was given a teletype sheet of news stories by the manager, **Mel Stevenson** and told to be ready in a few minutes to read the news live. Somehow Layton got through the newscast and the manager opened the mic with, *"And that ladies and gentlemen, is the latest would-be broadcaster to visit out town. If you see him around, make him feel at home. His name is Bob Layton"*.

Station Manager Stevenson, then asked Bob "So when can you start?" Start" What do you mean?" "Aren't you applying for a job?" "Actually, I just came here on my vacation time to see what the interview would be like. What if I totally screw up?"

"Then, I'll just let you go. Do you want this job or not?"

"I am not sure. I hadn't expected this to happen. I thought your ad said you were looking for someone with experience. I don't have any."

"Really?" he said, I could have sworn I heard you on the radio this morning reading the news.

This was the beginning of Bob Layton's radio career. A year later he left to work for 630 CHED in Edmonton and eventually became news director of the CORUS radio stations in Edmonton., including CHED, iNews 880, 92 Fresh FM and CISN Country. He is still active after 48 years as a radio broadcaster and starts work each morning at 3:00 am.

Bob shared several stories that gave us a sense how community issues were addressed.

One of the stories was about the **Edmonton police helicopter** and how it had begun with a CHED editorial in the fall of 2000. *“We had been watching CNN and a camera mounted on a police helicopter as they chased a suspect down a freeway, and then followed as he bailed out of a car and ran through some yards and up and over fences while the helicopter relayed his progress to the officer with a dog. In my editorial I asked why Edmonton didn’t have a police helicopter”. Calgary has one, how come we don’t? We got responses to every editorial. Some people like them, some want me dead. I actually had a death threat. This time, people were writing and emailing and phoning responses as if there was a campaign under way. And strangely enough, it was all in favour”.*

This was not the first time; indeed, it had been tried before between 1995 and 1998. Various business and community people led a fundraising effort, but the response had been lukewarm and at times negative.

This time **Ed Bean, owner of Crystal Glass** pledged in December 1970 \$100,000 if Edmontonian’s matched this amount. The other stipulation was that it had to be matched before the end of December. The money was matched which became a down payment for additional fundraising, By the summer of 2001, \$1,000,000 had been raised to allow the leasing of a helicopter for one year. To keep it, proof would be needed that it was doing its job. Ultimately, a lottery was created to raise the additional funds. In the end the lottery was a huge success and it allowed the total purchase of the **Air 1 police helicopter** with enough money to keep it in the sky for six months.

During one pursuit situation, the police were ordered to fall back and allow Air 1 to complete the chase. The suspect slowed down when he believed the police had stopped chasing him, but the patrol cars were able to follow him on parallel roads without notice. When the pursuit ended, the driver looked up and saw the bright lights and asked if the helicopter had followed him home. *“When they told him it had, he thought that was bad news and worse news. The bad news was that he had been caught by Air 1 and the worse news was that he had bought a lottery ticket to help fundraising efforts”.*

Many other humorous stories are contained in Bob Layton’s recently published book **Welcome to Radio. My life in broadcasting so far**. Proceeds from the sale of this book are donated 630 CHED Santa’s Anonymous, Global TV’s Give ME Shelter, and the Edmonton Police Foundation.

Treasurer **Gary Campbell** thanked our speaker for a very entertaining presentation.

Larry Dobson was the winner of the Free Lunch draw.

Thanks to the team of **Gary Campbell, Jack Slobodan, and Alan Rusler** for organizing this luncheon event.



Bob Layton

FIRST POSTING

Fred Otto has applied for membership in our club. Fred and his wife **Helen** reside at **12319- 52 Ave. NW** Edmonton, AB **T6H 0P5** His telephone number is **780-434-2416** and email address fotto@interbaun.com Fred is a retired chemical engineer, former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Alberta and Professor Emeritus. **Allan Warrack** and **Dan Hasinoff** propose him.

FIRST POSTING

Douglas Armstrong has applied for membership in our club. Doug and his wife **Mary Ella** reside at **3 Wolf Willow PT. NW** Edmonton, AB **T5T 1E3** His telephone number is **780-481-2055** and email address wdouglas678@gmail.com Doug is a retired Family Physician. **Peter Carter** and **John Boyd** propose him.

FIRST POSTING

Heinrich Grosskopf has applied for membership in our club. Heinrich and his wife reside **Carina** reside at **7920- 14 Avenue SW** Edmonton AB **T6X 1H3**. His telephone number is **780-758-0618** and email address is heingro@gmail.com Heinrich is Minister of Religion, Dayspring Presbyterian Church. **David Burnett** and **Jack Brown** propose him.

Dick Nichols reports on the results of the Hockey Pool

Game 17 March 10	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Wild				
First 0 0		Morgan Lochhead	Bruce Foy	Jack Ellis
Second 2 0		Sophie McKinnon	Mike Matei	S Sellar
Final 4 1		Walter Yakimets	Marcia Kashani	Bea McKenzie

Game 18 March 20	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Hurricanes				
First 3 2		Gary Campbell	Jonathon Foy	Jack Ellis
Second 6 3		Andrew Russell	Sharon Matei	S Sellar
Final 7 3		Unsold	Shirley Larson	Bea McKenzie

Game 19 March 27	Winners	First Period	Second	Final
Oilers vs Blue Jackets				
First 3 3		Kennedy Brown	Brooks Ross	Saara Dobson
Second 3 6		Mark Power	Sharon Matei	Sharon Matei
Final 3 7		L. Luo	B. Walker	Rebecca Burnett

'Fast Fred'

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, April 3rd

Executive Officers and Directors-Elections and Business Meeting

Event Organizers: Peter Carter and Larry Dobson

GYRETTE Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, April 10th

Time: Registration 11:30, Lunch 12:00 noon

Speaker: **Rev, Jim Lochhead**

Topic: Recent Cycling Tours in Costa Rica, Quebec, and Portugal

Contact: Valerie Walker

GYRO BRIDGE WINDUP, Highlands Golf Course, Wednesday, April 18th

Cocktails: 5:30, Dinner 6:30

Event Organizer: Ken Willan

Executive Officer and Directors Installation, Mixed Event, U. of A. Faculty Club, 11113-113 Street NW, Saturday Evening, April 21st

Time: 6:00 PM for Dinner at 7:00

Cost: TBA

Menu: Prime Rib or Salmon

Event Organizers: Ray Dallaire and Jim Lepp

Tuesday Luncheon Meeting, Royal Mayfair Golf Club, May 15th

Speaker: Ron Bodnar

Topic: Franklin Cars

Event Organizers: John Ross and Peter Gommerud

DISTRICT VIII CONVENTION, Nelson, B.C. June 7-10, 2018

Convention Hotel: Prestige Lakeside Resort, Gyro rates: \$140/night plus tax-City side and \$160/night-Lake side.

Registration Fee: \$450/couple, single \$225

Convention Link: <http://nelson.gyro.ws/CONVENTION.html>

Nelson Contact: Dave Brown davelinbrown@shaw.ca

GYRO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, Abbey Resort, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. June 25-29, 2018



Nelson, British Columbia